



# Ardmore Moravian Church

January 4, 2026

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WATCH WORD FOR THE WEEK:

*Praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted;  
his glory is above earth and heaven.*

Psalm 148:13

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## **John 1:1-18**

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being **4** in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

**6** There was a man sent from God whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. **8** He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. **9** The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

**10** He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. **11** He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. **12** But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

**14** And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. **15** (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") **16** From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. **17** The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. **18** No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

**ARDMORE MORAVIAN CHURCH**  
**Second Sunday after Christmas**  
**January 4, 2026**

Prelude “How Bright Appears the Morning Star”

arr. Paul Manz

Call to Worship

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

**For he has looked favorably on his people and  
redeemed them.**

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high has  
broken upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and  
in the shadow of death,

**To guide our feet into the way of peace.**

For unto us a Child is born,

**Unto us a Son is given.**

“What Child Is This” MBW # 305

*What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary’s lap is sleeping?*

*Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?*

*This, this is Christ the king,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing.*

*Haste, haste to bring him laud,*

*the babe, the son of Mary!*  
*Why lies he in such mean estate*  
*where ox and ass are feeding?*  
*Good Christian, fear; for sinners here*  
*the silent Word is pleading.*  
*This, this is Christ the king,*  
*whom shepherds guard and angels sing.*  
*Haste, haste to bring him laud,*  
*the babe, the son of Mary!*

Greeting One Another in Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love

Welcome and Announcements

Liturgy for Christmas

(Standing.)

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

**Thanks be to God for this gift beyond words!**

My eyes have seen your salvation,

**Which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples.**

*The first Noel, the angel did say,  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.*

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.*

*They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east, beyond them far,  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.*

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.*

(Sitting.)

Saving God, we confess to you our sinfulness. We are consumed with greed and with self, instead of loving you as we ought. Too often we are indifferent to those for whom this season is not a time of joy. You call us to the simple life, but we engage in extravagance, which directs our hearts away from you and from those in need.

**Forgive us and renew us, gracious Savior.**

With Mary we exalt you, God our Redeemer:

**My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in  
God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the  
lowliness of his servant.**

**Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the mighty has done great things for me and holy is  
his name.**

**His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to  
generation.**

**He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered  
the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.**

**He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;**

**He has filled with hungry with good things, and sent the  
rich away empty.**

**He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his  
mercy, according to the promise he made to our  
ancestors, to Abraham and his descendants forever.**

*“The First Noel” MBW # 290*

*And by the light of that same star,  
three wise men came from country far.*

*To seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went.*

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.*

*This star drew nigh to the northwest,*

*o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay,  
right over the place where Jesus lay.*

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.*

Glory be to you, Lord our God; you have chosen us in Jesus Christ, our Lord, before the founding of the world.

**You have given us such love, Father, that we should be called the children of God!**

You have blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

**You have rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of your beloved Son.**

You have redeemed us through Jesus Christ, your Incarnate Son.

**For the sake of the great love with which you love us, make us alive in Christ, our Lord.**

Holy Child of Mary, Savior of the world,

**Reveal yourself to us.**

By your holy incarnation,

By your human birth,

By your pure and blameless childhood,

By your obedience and diligence,

By your humility, meekness, and patience,

By your extreme poverty,

By your griefs and sorrows,  
By your prayers and tears,  
By your having been despised and rejected,  
By your cross and suffering,  
By your death and burial,  
By your triumphant resurrection and ascension,

**Help us and save us.**

For the poor, the abused, and the sick,  
For prisoners and the homeless,  
For the victims of natural disaster and war,  
For those who are in danger, misery, or distress,  
For those who minister to human need in your name,  
For all who share your good news,  
For your whole church on earth,

**We pray for your blessing, strength, and encouragement.**

God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

**May we all be transformed into the image of Christ from one degree of glory to another.**

"The First Noel" MBW # 290

*Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood mankind hath bought.*



*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.*

## Installation of 2026 Boards of Elders and Trustees

As this new year begins we come to worship our Lord and Savior and to offer our thanksgiving for those who have shared the gifts given to them and served their Lord and this congregation as a member of the Board of Trustees.

Today we recognize Deron Mabe.

On behalf of the congregation of Ardmore Moravian Church, I thank you for your diligent and faithful service to our Lord and Savior through your leadership as a member of the Trustees. You have helped to lead the congregation in uncertain times and through many unprecedented challenges. May you hear the words of our Savior “Well done, good and faithful servants” as you enjoy the rest that you deserve.

Today, we also welcome and install the members of our Boards of Elders and Trustees for 2026.

As I call your name, please stand:

Board of Elders-Dennis Adams, Carol Ann Bowles, Kaye Brookshire, Beth Kiger Mabe, Lisa Saint, and Jo Spach.

Board of Trustees- Betsy Annese, George Butner, Peggy Crouse, Matthew Eckard, Barry Lyons, and Josh Williams.

You have been called by God and chosen by this congregation to serve as members of the Boards of Elders and Trustees.

Will you do your best to prayerfully and faithfully lead this congregation as together we seek to share the hope, faith, and love that we have received from our Savior with each other and with our community?

Board Members: **We will.**

Do you, the members of Ardmore Moravian Church, promise to uphold these brothers and sisters in prayer and in love as they seek to lead this congregation according to God's will and the guidance of the Holy Spirit?

Congregation: **We do.**

Let us pray.

Almighty and gracious God, thank you for giving us the blessings of being members of your family at Ardmore Moravian Church. Together we gather to worship, to learn, to serve, and to pray. As we enter into this new year, continue to guide us and lead us and bless us. May you fill these leaders with your wisdom and understanding as they seek to serve you and this congregation. May you fill us all with the knowledge of your love and strengthen us to share your love with one another and with everyone we meet. Keep us united in faith, in hope, and in love.

**Amen.**

In the name of our Chief Elder, you are now installed as the members of the 2026 Boards of Elders and Trustees of Ardmore Moravian Church.

## Giving Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “Christ Is the World’s Light”

arr. Robert A. Hobby

Response

“What Child Is This” MBW # 305

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;*

*come, peasant king, to own him.*

*The King of kings salvation brings;*

*let loving hearts enthrone him.*

*This, this is Christ the king,*

*whom shepherds guard and angels sing.*

*Haste, haste to bring him laud,*

*the babe, the son of Mary!*

Prayer

Scripture Lessons

Ephesians 1:3-14

Psalms 147:12-20

John 1:1-18

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten” MBW # 483

*Of the Father’s love begotten*

*ere the worlds began to be,*

*he is Alpha and Omega —*

*he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been,  
and that future years shall see  
evermore and evermore.*

*O that birth forever blessed,  
when the virgin, full of grace,  
by the Spirit blessed conceiving,  
bore the Savior of our race;  
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,  
first revealed his sacred face,  
evermore and evermore.*

*Let the heights of heav'n adore him;  
angel hosts, his praises sing:  
pow'rs, dominions, bow before him  
and extol our God and King;  
let no tongue on earth be silent,  
ev'ry voice in concert ring  
evermore and evermore.*

*Christ, to you, with God the Father  
and the Spirit, there shall be  
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving  
and the shout of jubilee:  
honor, glory, and dominion  
and eternal victory*

*evermore and evermore!*

Sermon

“In the Beginning...”

Rev. Joe Moore

Selection of Congregation Watchword for 2026

Eternal God, Ruler of all ages, graciously you come to us in order that we might come to you, through the merit of Jesus Christ, strengthened by the Holy Spirit.

**Help us and all your children to respond to the call of your gospel with faith, love, and hope.**

God of hope, you created humanity to serve and praise you; and even when we rebelled against you, you promised to send a Savior to redeem us from our sins:

**Strengthen our faith in your saving work through Christ.**

**As you chose the people of Israel to hear the promise of redemption through the prophets, may people today believe in your good will for all that you have made.**

God of peace, you comfort us through our Savior's presence with us as we seek to live the lives to which you call us:

**We celebrate his birth today and ask that you grant us the gifts of the Holy Spirit so that we may share his hope and peace with all who are in despair and darkness.**

God of joy, let our hearts continue to make room for our Savior. Help us to share our joy in our Savior with all creation.

**Fill us with unending joy every day as we offer ourselves to serve you and your creation.**

God of love, you sent your Son into our world and fulfilled your promise of a redeemer in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ:

**As we live in the light and love of our Lord, let us rejoice.  
For Christ the Lord is born and lives in us, today and for  
all eternity.**

God of hope, peace, joy, and love, to you and to you alone we pray:

**For you are our God, the only God, forever and ever.  
Amen.**

“With Praises and Thanksgiving” MBW # 309

*With praises and thanksgiving we enter this new year;  
our heav’nly Father’s leading has brought us safely here.  
The journey set before us is through an unknown land;  
but we shall fear no evil when guided by his hand.*

*Like Abram, called to journey in lands he did not know,  
so in this strange new country, this new year, we must go.  
New scenes are spread before us, new vict’ries to be won;  
and like the ancient father, in faith we travel on.*

*The days are swiftly passing, time is not ours to hold.  
The new year we are greeting will soon become the old.  
But he who guides us onward will grant us in his love,  
when earthly years are ended, that bright new year above.*

Benediction

My eyes have seen your salvation,

**Which you have prepared in the presence of all people.**


Let your servants depart filled with hope, peace, joy, and love.

**Amen.**


Please be seated and use this time to listen to the Postlude and reflect upon how God is calling you to live, to love, and to serve in the week to come.

Postlude

“Variations on In Dulci Jubilo” Denis Bedard



*The large poinsettia are given to the glory of God as we continue to remember the earthly birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.*



## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK**

### **Sunday, January 4 – Second Sunday after Christmas Day**

9:30 AM    Sunday School Classes

10:30 AM    Worship Service – Rev. Joe Moore

### **Tuesday, January 6 – Epiphany of the Lord**

### **Sunday, January 11 – First Sunday after the Epiphany**

9:30 AM    Sunday School Classes

10:30 AM    Communion Worship Service

Rev. Joe Moore



# PEOPLE FOR WHOM WE ARE PRAYING



## ***Members***

Cindy Clore  
Ann Cranford  
Beverly Dillon  
Fanchon Funk  
Julie Johnson  
Adam Lefevre

Mike Meritt  
Alice Pierce  
Carolyn Spainhour  
Polly Story  
Frances Walker  
Donna Ebert Williams

## ***Friends***

Dr. Bill J. Beason  
Lizanne Butner  
Dwayne Jones  
Wanda Jones  
Ray Shelton  
Larry  
Juan

Ann M<sup>c</sup>Curdy  
Terry Moore  
Allison Murray  
Marlyn Schauss  
Jerry Seivers  
Steven Starling

***\*Please contact the church office to add or remove individuals from the prayer list.***

## This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

***Welcome to Ardmore Moravian Church***  
***“Where Communion and Community Come Together”***

We are a Christ-centered fellowship of people bound by love of Jesus and one another. Our greatest hope is that God will be glorified through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit among us. We have gathered to worship; celebrating the eternal life won for us by Christ through His death and resurrection as promised in the Bible.

God has created and called us into relationship with Himself (communion) and with one another (community). We need the Lord, and we need each other. As you draw close to God, may you also grow in friendship with those around you. We believe God has gifted people in every age. So our worship is marked by a variety of styles and expressions of music, liturgy, prayer and proclamation. We seek to blend these expressions in a way that pleases God and edifies one another.

The Moravian Church, while unfamiliar to many, is actually one of the oldest Protestant denominations in the world. Our roots and heritage run deep, even one hundred years prior to the Great Reformation. Yet our sense of mission is alive and active *today* as we serve the Lord in ministry together.

Jesus said to His disciples, “...you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.” At Ardmore Moravian we sincerely strive to live that promise. We worship, study the Holy Scriptures, fellowship and grow as Disciples of Christ together here at the corner of Hawthorne and Academy. We ask the Lord then to send us out and employ us for His glory as we share the Gospel - the Good News of Christ - locally, regionally and globally.

If you are searching for a meaningful relationship with God and productive friendships with other people, you’ve come to the right place, “Where Communion and Community Come Together.”



Minister: Rev. Joe Moore

Guest Organist: Edwin Walker

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