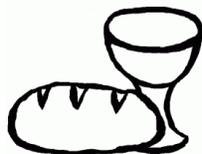


WELCOME MEMBERS AND FRIENDS TO HOLY COMMUNION



Today we observe the August 13th Festival of the Moravian Church with the sharing of Holy Communion. The Moravian Church practices open Communion, which means that members of all Christian churches are invited to share the bread and the cup with us.

The form in which the Moravian Church administers Holy Communion differs from that of other churches. It is based upon practices which began in the early Moravian Church (call the Unitas Fratrum) in the 15th century.

The bread and the cup are brought to the person receiving Communion by the pastor or congregational acolyte symbolically reminding us of God's initiative, through Jesus, in coming to each one of us. If you desire to receive Communion, stand (if able) with the others in your pew when the pastor approaches. If you choose not to partake of the Communion elements, simply remain seated.

After everyone in your pew has been served, please be seated, and continue singing our Communion hymns until all have been served. The pastor, using the word of Scripture, will invite everyone to stand and partake together. Then, be seated for a personal, silent prayer. After we share the cup, we ask that you place the cup in the holder after the prayer.

At the beginning and again at the close of our Communion service, everyone gives to those standing nearby the "right hand of fellowship". The first time signifies our oneness in Christ. The second time signifies our renewed dedication and unity of purpose in Christ's service.

God speaks to us in many ways. Communion is one of the significant ways we see God's love as God was willing to have His Son, Jesus, have his body broken and blood shed for us. Through the songs, through the prayers, through the fellowship with other believers, through the bread and the cup, and through the presence of the living Christ, may you be blessed today.

MEDITATION NOTES YOU ASKED FOR IT:

MORE KINGDOM BUILDING MOUNTAIN MOVING FAITH

You Asked for It: The Parable of the Mustard Seed tied into Hebrews and the importance of our faith and strength in God

JESUS' PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED

"He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed . . . Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants . . .'" Matthew 13:31-32

Jesus teaches how great things come from small beginnings.

JESUS' OTHER IMAGERY OF THE MUSTARD SEED

"He replied, 'If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move.

Nothing will be impossible for you.'" Matthew 17:20

Jesus teaches that faith focused on God will do great things.

WHAT IS FAITH?

Faith is complete trust and confidence in someone or something.

"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." Hebrews 11:1

Faith is your connection with God.

SOME OF THE GREAT BENEFITS OF FAITH

1. Faith shrinks your problems.
"For nothing is impossible with God." Luke 1:37
2. Faith opens the door for God to move in your life.
Jesus said, "According to your faith it will be done to you. Matthew 9:29
3. Faith gives you power to hold onto in tough times.
"We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed . . . 2 Corinthians 4:8-9
4. Faith overcomes _____.
"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise – in God I trust and am not afraid." Psalm 56:3

THE EARLY MORAVIANS IN HERRNHUT – AN EXAMPLE OF KINGDOM BUILDING MOUNTAIN MOVING FAITH

The Moravian Church _____.

These early Moravians began the modern _____ movement.

Today there are over _____ Moravians worldwide.

May we have a faith that grows God's _____!

May we have a faith that moves _____!

If you follow along with the Meditation Notes, the words that go in the blanks are: fear, grew, missionary, 750,000, kingdom, mountains