

Schoeneck Moravian Church



Sunday Worship

8:00 AM & 10:30 AM
In-Person
10:30 Livestream

9:15 AM Sunday School
All Ages

Pastor: Rev. Ian Edwards

Administrative Assistant
Stephanie Guary

Director of Music Ministry
Ryan Morrow

316 N. Broad Street, Ext.
Nazareth, PA 18064
610-759-0376

Email: schoeneck @
schoeneckmoravianchurch.org

www.schoeneckmoravianchurch.org

The Joyful Noise Newsletter April 2026

It's a Matter Of Time

When is Easter? A little late to be asking this year, it is, or was, on April 5.

How about next year, and the year after? Why does it move around and how come like half the time it is different from something called Orthodox Easter that I also see on my calendar? If they are orthodox, does that mean we're wrong, or they are?

Ok, let me answer that last one first, it's based on a slightly different calculation, just as valid from their perspective. Originally we all calculated Easter based on walking down the block to the local synagogue and saying, "by the way, when is Passover this year?" Jesus was celebrating the Passover with his friends and family, next day the crucifixion, then Sabbath and Resurrection on the first day of the week. Occasionally Christian planners noticed their Jewish colleagues placed Passover before the spring equinox, us being the know it alls with the truth and all, this just wouldn't do, we'd better give that ancient religion a solid "well actually..." Add in a little medieval anti-semitism wrapped up in rational scientific thinking, and we decided to come up with our own formula for when the Lord would have been at Passover, and make sure the sequence ended up with resurrection on a Sunday, that's our big day.

And so, we went with the very simple: first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox. Before you say "what, that's the simple version?", think of a time before clocks, before printed calendars, but after the collapse of the communications systems of the Roman Empire, so the Pope couldn't just send out a proclamation with the date for this year. Forget about swiping your google calendar forward, or even looking at that list in the hymnal that has the dates going forward. A monk in a remote part of the world could watch the sun and the moon, confer with local farmers on the seasons, check his scratches on the wall tracking the day of the week, and plan Easter celebrations with great confidence. There was even dispensation for being off despite your best effort.

I've been thinking a lot about dates and time, especially because all the pastors and church staff I talk to feel like this Lent into Easter cycle totally snuck up on us...even though the date for 2026 Easter was locked in like 400 years ago. If it was just me I'd understand, but it seems to be across the board. We're not shirking, we're putting together and carrying out quality meaningful worship that honors God in the season, but it feels like the spinning reality of humanity has added another dimension, causing the contemplation of dates and the celebration they carry to be knocked off kilter. The news cycle takes precedence over the movement of the sun and the moon reminding us to give this season to God. My prayer is that we live, and worship, in the moment, while still looking to the future on God's time.

Pastor Ian

2026 WATCHWORD TEXT FOR THE SCHOENECK CONGREGATION

"For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty."

2 Peter 1:16

Worship the Lord with Us!

2026 April Worship Services

Sunday, April 5, 2026— Resurrection Sunday

Sunday, April 12, 2026—Second Sunday of Easter—Performance of ACTS! Musical by Schoeneck
Performing Arts Ministry

Sunday, April 19, 2026—Third Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 26, 2026—Fourth Sunday of Easter

Future Worship Services

Sunday, May 3, 2026—Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 10, 2026—Sixth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 17, 2026—Seventh Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 24, 2026—Day of Pentecost

Sunday, May 31, 2026—Trinity Sunday



FEBRUARY 2026 ATTENDANCE

<u>Sunday Worship</u>	<u>In</u> <u>8:00 AM</u>	<u>Church</u> <u>10:30 AM</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>Sunday</u> <u>Teacher</u>	<u>School</u> <u>Adult</u>	<u>Staff</u>
1-Feb—10:30 Service only	0	75	75	18	7	13	2
8-Feb	25	66	91	17	8	8	1
15-Feb	29	68	97	16	8	17	2
22-Feb	38	42	80	13	9	7	1
Total	92	251	343	64	32	45	6
Average*	30.67	62.75	85.75	16.00	8.00	11.25	6.00
* Average was divided by 2							

February 1—Annual Church Council Meeting
 February 8—Mission Lovefeast/Windchill below 0
 February 15— Transfiguration Sunday

ELDERS PERSPECTIVE

Resurrection Hope

Throughout these past weeks as I journeyed through Lent, a time that takes us from the darkness of winter into the light of spring, I found myself drawn to the Christmas song, *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*. For me, the original poem *Christmas Bells* by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow is both a Christmas song of hope and an Easter song of resurrection, underscoring the possibility of peace, regardless of the season.

Longfellow wrote this poem in 1863, during a time of personal despair. He was mourning the tragic death of his wife in a house fire, while a son lie on the brink of death during the Civil War. Like similar patterns found in some of David's psalms that begin in despair, Longfellow's poem reflects his deep anguish. He declares "there is no peace", and "hate mocks the song"—of bells that chime peace on earth, good will to men.

But as Easter resurrection transforms despair into hope-filled life, Longfellow experiences a spiritual resurrection at Christmas, and his poem ends with reconciliation and grace; "then pealed the bells more loud and deep: God is not dead, nor doth He sleep; the wrong shall fail, the right prevail, with peace on earth, good will to men."

As we live out our faith as followers of Christ by holding on to hope and actively seeking peace, we reflect God's love in tangible ways that bring healing to the brokenness around us.

Matthew 5:9: Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God. (NIV)

Ann-Louise Taylor
Elder

Board of Elders

Pastor Ian Edwards, Chair
Brian Dishong, Vice Chair
Laura Cook, Secretary
Terry Berger
Susan Fraser
JoAnn Heckman
Louis Murante
Mike Rampulla
Pamela Stampf
Ann-Louise Taylor

Joint Board Members

Board of Trustees

Kim Samsel President
Roger Woolley, Vice President
Lori Deutsch, Secretary
Pastor Ian Edwards, ex-officio
Dennis Guldner
Marisa Graver
Mike Koehler
Andrew Majczan
Jonah Rampulla
Marianne Sweitzer

Board of Elders

March Board of Elders meeting:

- 1) Affirm Easter Breakfast
- 2) Seeking worship leaders to include youth
- 3) Recruiting leadership team for Rummage Sale

Board of Trustees

March Board of Trustees meeting:

No Report to be added to April Newsletter

CHURCH NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



SAVE THE DATE
RUMMAGE SALE—JUNE 6, 2026
SET UP—May 31 — June 5

ACTS...it's a book of the Bible, it's what we do as performers, it's the way plays and musicals are organized, and it is what we need to do to share our faith.



Having experienced productions like *Godspell*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and traditional Passion Plays, at the end of the show there is always the question 'Why does it end there?' Jesus dies, and that's the end of the show. *What about the rest of the story?*

We are Moravians. We are the Easter People. We want to see Easter and the Resurrection. We want to see more of the story, and that story continues into the book of Acts.

Join us as we ACT, sing, and dance. Learn some stories from the book of ACTS. See how the disciples ACTed on their faith. Use your musical talents to ACT on your own faith.



ACTS will be performed on **Sunday, April 12, 2026 at the 10:30 Service (this is the Sunday after Easter)**. This is the show written by Sarah and featuring music written by Ryan. All are welcome, either as part of the audience, or as part of the unofficial Performing Arts Ministry Team. See Sarah Hriniaik for more information.

I wish to thank everyone who sent me wishes for my birthday. It helped to make my day more enjoyable.

With Love,
Dolores Klipple



Dear Rev. Edwards,

Thank you for generously welcoming Kate Micucci, Nazareth Library staff, children and families to Schoeneck Moravian Church for the launch of Kate's new book on Saturday, March 21, 2026.

We greatly appreciate being able to offer library programs to the community in Schoeneck Moravian Church.

Best wishes,
Berry Steiner and Holly Bennett
Memorial Library of Nazareth



FROM THE TRUSTEES

Special Envelopes For April:

The envelope for **Community Dinners** will enable our Mission and Evangelism Team to provide a monthly meal to those in need throughout the Nazareth Area community.



The envelope for **Safety and Security** will provide funds for enhanced security measures based on a Risk and Vulnerability Assessment done late last year.

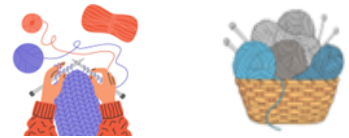


The next roadside cleanup is scheduled for Saturday morning, April 18th at 9:00 AM, in connection with Earth Day on Wednesday, April 22, 2026.

Earth Day is an annual event to demonstrate support for environmental protection. First held on April 22, 1970, it now includes a wide range of events coordinated globally by Earthday.org



Prayer Shawl Ministry
Wednesday, May 6, 2026
at 6:00 PM, Room 11



Dear Pastor Edwards,

As the Food Bank anticipates resuming monthly distributions in April, we thank you for supporting our efforts to end food insecurity in our community. The donations of cash and nonperishable food collected prior to the holidays provide wonderful benefits to our clients. Your gifts assist us in providing much needed food for these families since they often struggle to buy basic necessities. We sincerely appreciate the generosity and compassion of the congregation at Schoeneck. The food collected gives us a nice boost in our inventory as we reopen!

Thank you again,

Nancy Madara
President
The Nazareth Area Food Bank

Thank you!

ACTIVATE OUR PRAYER CHAIN

Contact Elaine Bittner at bittner281@gmail.com, or call the church office (610-759-0376).

For same or next day prayer requests, call or text Elaine (484-695-4501)

Christian Education... for all ages

THANK YOU!

Our Birthday Social was well attended this year with an attendance of 56 people! (the most I can remember in many years) A special thank you goes out to all who baked the delicious cakes and pot luck food. Also thank you to the kitchen crew who were very busy from early morning until early afternoon with heating up all our casserole dishes we brought in the morning and the clean-up. Without the extra help, the CEM members would not have been able to do it all. It is wonderful when we all can work together.



Join us Easter morning between services for our annual Easter event, held during the normally scheduled Sunday School hour, 9:15 - 10:15. Since choir, brass choir and bells will be participating in both services, feel free to come take a break and join us in the fellowship hall for some Easter activities, and light refreshments to recharge for the next service. All are welcome whether you attend Sunday School or are involved with any of the choirs that morning! Hope to see you then.

Happy Spring!
Pam Stampf
Sunday School Coordinator



Men's Bible Study

Will continue to meet on Thursdays at 7:00 PM.



Women's Bible study

Thursday mornings from 9:00 AM



Schoeneck Moravian Health Ministry
Blood Pressure Screening will be
Sunday, April 19, 2026
after each Worship Service.



*Ladies (Women's) Fellowship
will be meeting May 13, 2026
At 11:00 AM at Essentials Café.
Meet in the church parking lot at
10:30 AM to car pool*

Upcoming 2026 Jr. Youth Activities!

Sunday 4/19 - Attend matinee of NAHS "Grease" the musical and support Sr. Youth in the play!



Please contact Lanie Yaswinski or Courtney Schnyderite with questions or to RSVP.

WHAT'S NEW?



The First Community Dinner for 2026 Wednesday, April 29, 2026



Meat Loaf
4:00 - 5:30 PM
(or while supplies last)

Mobile Pick-up Only
Drive-in parking lot
Stay in your car
Meals are absolutely free

Save the Date!
The next Community
Dinner will be
Wednesday, May 27, 2026

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Arrive by 10:00 AM to help with meals or to help with clean up by 3:00 PM

A TRIBUTE TO MOTHER

We are preparing a Special Mother's Day Bulletin Insert
In Honor of living Mothers or In Memory of those deceased.

In Whose Name is this tribute (Please Print): _____

Please check whether -

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> In Honor of Mother (living) | <input type="checkbox"/> In Memory of Great Grandmother (deceased) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In Memory of Mother (deceased) | <input type="checkbox"/> In Honor of Godmother (living) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In Honor of Mother-In-Law (living) | <input type="checkbox"/> In Memory of Godmother (deceased) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In Memory of Mother-In-Law (deceased) | <input type="checkbox"/> In Honor of Wife (living) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In Honor of Grandmother (living) | <input type="checkbox"/> In Memory of Wife (deceased) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In Memory of Grandmother (deceased) | <input type="checkbox"/> In Honor of Aunt (living) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In Honor of Great Grandmother (living) | <input type="checkbox"/> In Memory of Aunt (deceased) |

Print your name here: _____

Please attach a dollar (\$1) as a contribution to this effort.

Please return this completed form with cash or check no later than **April 26, 2026** to the church office.

Please use one form for each name submitted.

Worship Helpers This Month

2026 SIGN UP SHEETS

The 2026 sign up sheets are posted on the church bulletin board: Scripture Readers, Flower Sponsors, Bulletin Sponsors, Recycling Sponsors, Lovefeast Sponsors & Bakers, and Dieners.



SPONSORS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL

FLOWERS - \$10.00
 4/5 Debbie Knecht
 4/12 Open
 4/19 Dave & Barb Butz
 4/26 Open

BULLETINS - \$10.00
 4/5 Debbie Knecht
 4/12 Open
 4/19 Open
 4/26 Open



APRIL TRUSTEE

Roger Woolley

APRIL ELDER(S)

Shared

APRIL RECYCLING SPONSOR(S) \$45

Open



APRIL LOVEFEAST \$100

Sponsor(s): The Majczan Family

Baker: Terry Berger

MAY LOVEFEAST \$100

Date	Time	Ushers	Greeters	Scripture Readers	Nursery
Wednesday, April 1, 2026 Holy Wednesday	7:00 PM	Pam Stampf	JoAnn Heckman	JoAnn Heckman	
Thursday, April 2, 2026 Holy Thursday	7:00 PM	Marianne Sweitzer	Linda & Ron Minnich	JoAnn Heckman	
Friday, April 3, 2026 Good Friday	1:45 PM 2:30 PM	JoAnn Heckman JoAnn Heckman	John Beitel John Beitel	Brian Dishong Brian Dishong	
Saturday, April 4, 2026 Great Sabbath	7:00 PM	Dennis Guldner	Allene Rampulla	John Beitel	
Sunday, April 5, 2026 Easter Sunday	6:00 AM 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Melody Stocker Melody Stocker & JoAnn Heckman Gloria Floyd & Marisa Graver	Kathy Makoul Brenda & Andy Loiacano	Sue Dreydoppel Donna Francisco	Brenda & Andy Loiacano
Sunday, April 12, 2026 Second Sunday of Easter	10:30 AM	Sharon Schuler & Gia Zullo	Catherine Hahn		Charissa Geiger & Tammy Mehlig
Sunday, April 19, 2026 Third Sunday of Easter	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Lori & John Deutsch Sally Huber & Mike Koehler	Barb & Dave Butz Mim Stoudt	Lori Deutsch Ryan Morrow	Andrew & Andrea Majczan
Sunday, April 26, 2026 Fourth Sunday of Easter	8:00 AM 10:30 AM	Cindy & Dean McAllister Tammy Mehlig & JoAnn Heckman	Mary Schweitzer Catherine Hahn	Cindy McAllister Laurie Woolley	Sharon Schuler & Gayle Searock

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Easter Sunday 5 6:00 AM Easter Sunrise Worship 7:00 AM Easter Breakfast, FH 8:00 & 10:30 AM Worship Joyful Noise 9:15 AM CEM Easter Funday, In FH</p>	<p>Easter Monday 6 <u>Church Office is Closed</u> ACTS Rehearsal</p>	<p>6:00 PM Elders Meeting, Rm 6</p>	<p>Holy Wednesday 1 6:00 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry, Rm 10</p>	<p>Maunder Thursday 2 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study, Rm 6 6:15 PM Jr Handbell 6:45 PM Sr Handbell 7:30 PM Sr Choir ACTS Rehearsal</p>	<p>Good Friday 3 ACTS Rehearsal 1:45 PM Holy Communion 2:30 PM Good Friday Vigil</p>	<p>ACTS Rehearsal 4 7:00 PM Great Sabbath Lovefeast</p>
						
<p>Second Sunday of Easter 12 10:30 AM Worship & ACTS Performance 9:15 AM Sunday School for All 2:00 PM GS Troop 8220, R 10 2:00 PM GS Troop 81144, R 6 2:00 PM GS Troop 86, R 11</p>	<p>6:00 PM GS Troop 8435, Rm 6</p>	<p>6:30 PM Grief Support Group (Zoom) 7:00 PM Trustees Meeting, (Zoom)</p>	<p>11:00 AM Women's Fellowship, FH 1:00 PM AFSCME, R11 6:00 PM CEM, Rm 10</p>	<p>9:00 AM Women's Bible Study, Rm 6 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study, Rm 6</p>	<p>10:30 AM Library Shake/Boogie Program</p>	<p>9:00 AM Roadside Cleanup</p>
<p>Third Sunday of Easter 19 8:00 & 10:30 AM Worship Blood Pressure Screening 9:15 AM Sunday School for All 1:00 PM Jr. Youth Group to attend matinee at NAHS to see Grease 2:00 PM GS Troop 86, R 6 2:00 PM GS Troop 893, R 10 2:00 PM GS Troop 81144, R 11</p>	<p>6:00 PM Mission & Evangelism, Zoom</p>		<p>9:00 AM Women's Bible Study, Rm 6 6:15 PM Jr Handbell 6:45 PM Sr Handbell (Final Rehearsal) 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study, Rm 6 7:30 PM Sr Choir</p>	<p>10:30 AM Library Shake/Boogie Program</p>	<p>9:00 AM Rain date for Roadside Cleanup</p>	
<p>Fourth Sunday of Easter 26 8:00 & 10:30 AM Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School for All 2:00 PM GS Troop 86, R 6 2:00 PM GS Troop 8220, R 11</p>		<p>7:00 PM Visitation & Caring, Rm 6</p>	<p>4:00 PM -5:30 PM Community Dinner</p>	<p>9:00 AM Women's Bible Study, Rm 6 6:15 PM Jr Handbell (Final Rehearsal) 7:00 PM Men's Bible Study, Rm 6 7:30 PM Sr Choir</p>		

The Joyful Noise



Schoeneck Moravian Church

316 North Broad Street Extension
Nazareth, Pennsylvania 18064-9522

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

schoeneck@schoeneckmoravian.org
<https://schoeneckmoravianchurch.org>
610-759-0376



Schoeneck Moravian Church

Our Lamb has conquered, let us follow him.

In Essentials, Unity; In Nonessentials, Liberty; In All Things, Love.



2026

Rev. Ian Edwards, Pastor
Ryan Morrow, Director of Music Ministry
Stephanie Guarry, Administrative Assistant

Our Mission Statement

“To follow the example of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to love and serve all.”

Regular Worship Service

8:00 AM & 10:30 AM Worship in the Sanctuary
& 10:30 AM Livestream

