Moravian Music Sunday – May 10, 2020

Theme: “Sing to the Lord, All the Earth!
Tell God’s Salvation from Day to Day!”
(Using hymn tunes composed or collected by Johann Freylinghausen, 1670-1739, in his 1704 hymnal)

January, 2020

To: Pastors and Directors of Music -- Moravian Church in America
From: Nola Reed Knouse, Director

Recognizing that music is a means of proclaiming the Gospel, we celebrate Moravian Music Sunday on the fifth Sunday of Easter, which in 2020 is May 10. Materials designed to assist your worship planning team in the preparation for Moravian Music Sunday are available on the Moravian Music Foundation’s website (www.MoravianMusic.org/moravian-music-sunday). We’ll be happy to send you a “hard copy” upon your request. A special note: May 10 is also Mothers Day. If this date isn’t convenient for your celebration of Moravian Music Sunday, please do celebrate it at any time that “works” for your congregation!

This year we take as our theme the exhortation to sing to the Lord and tell God’s salvation (1 Chronicles 16:23). We are suggesting the gospel lesson assigned in the Revised Common Lectionary for this the 5th Sunday of Easter, but our other recommended passages are specially chosen for Moravian Music Sunday.

There are also many Moravians living today who are writing hymn texts and music, anthems, instrumental music, sacred songs, and all sorts of music – probably someone in your own congregation! While we are offering some suggestions for specific hymns and anthems, we encourage you to seek out those gifted composers and authors in your own congregation and celebrate their gifts.

To help in your planning, we’re including the following in on our website --

- A suggested order of service, which can easily be adapted for use in a lovefeast;
- A short liturgy for Moravian Music Sunday;
- A “statement to be read” which focuses attention on Moravian music in the perspective of faith and worship;
- Information regarding the music suggested for Moravian Music Sunday, which you may use in your newsletter or bulletin; and

We would appreciate receiving bulletins or reports on what you choose to do for Moravian Music Sunday. What you do may serve as a model for someone else. Many thanks, and may God continue to bless your ministry!