



SCHOENBRUNN COMMUNITY MORAVIAN CHURCH

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Rev. Benjamin Lippert, Pastor

July 22, 2020

Greetings Schoenbrunn Family,

This year our joint board has worked hard to strengthen our communication with the congregation with these quarterly letters. We want you to know what is going on with our church spiritually, activity wise, and financially.

I have to be honest that when the COVID-19 pandemic started I was anxious about how this would impact not only our church at Schoenbrunn, but the wider Christian Church. God has used these past 3 months to grow my mustard seed of faith. Matthew 17:20 said, “He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a[a] mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.”

I have been blown away by what God has done among us with those tiny mustard seeds. When we were unable to physically worship in the same space we quickly had to adapt and learn how to make a virtual worship service. It took some time, but during that time period our evangelism grew exponentially! We consistently have had two or 3 times more views for our online services than we would for a service in-person. It was difficult not to gather in-person, but it is so uplifting to know that we are reaching many people with the Gospel.

Our return to in-person worship in the fellowship hall has gone smoothly as well. The joint board wants to offer a big thank-you for your willingness to adhere to all our guidelines. I know it can be difficult to wear a mask, practice social distancing, and give up congregational singing, but those sacrifices allow us to maintain in-person worship services in this new world. We know some of you are still hesitant to return to worship and I want to reiterate that is perfectly fine. We want all families to err on the side of safety when it comes to returning to worship.

This is usually the part of the letter where I hit you up for money, but thanks to the faithful generosity of our members I can just say thank you! For the first time in a long time we have already paid off our major medical, our common ministries to the Eastern District, and all we owe is about \$7,000 to the Northern Province for the rest of year. We are well on pace for completing our 5th year of assessment forgiveness from the province. Well done and keep up the good work!

I also want to give a big thank you to our treasurer Jackie Pasquinelli and our trustees for securing a payroll protection grant that ended in June that helped us pay some of our salaries from May to June.

The activities that have returned have been well received. Our Strawberry Festival sold out and our last Food on the Fly sold out as well in just about an hour! Our Food on the Fly will continue on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 4:30-6:00 p.m. On Saturday August 29th, from 8 a.m.- 3p.m. we will have our rummage sale (we are not taking any more items). On Saturday October 3rd, from 4p.m.- 6p.m. we will have a Fall Fest with carry-out only food for \$5 and your choice of an apple or pumpkin dessert. It will be yummy!

There are no guarantees in this COVID-19 world, but I remain certain in God's compassion and our ability as a church family to keep living out God's love for our community. Let us remain dedicated and faithful in service to a wonderful God.

Blessings,

Pastor Ben

SCMC JOINT BOARD