



LOVEFEAST

December 6 at 6 p.m.

Dear Demon Deacons,

Count Nicolas Ludwig von Zinzendorf said "I have observed that the preservation of the community is best assured through a process of continuous change." The Moravian Love Feast goes back to August 13, 1727 when the Moravian community in Herrnhut, Germany were having a tough time both communally and individually. However something special happened that day. After the Communion service held that day, small groups gathered together across the community. Count Zinzendorf understood that the people did not want to go home to eat alone, they wanted to stay together. So, they did.

Count Zinzendorf sent food to every group from the kitchen of his home. Nourished by a shared meal even at a distance, they were able to continue their fellowship until a renewed bond of the community was created and strengthened. This was the first Love feast and from then on, even at a distance, Moravians still celebrate through the good times, the bad times, and all the change in between.

You and the Moravians have something in common, you know a thing or two about what it means to live into the words Pro Humanitate. The Moravians on that August day in 1727 asked one another for forgiveness, for grace, and to be loved so they could love others and become a better community.

Each and every student, faculty, staff, alumnae, and community member who loves Wake Forest knows how beloved and valued our traditions are. We also recognize the importance of preserving our traditions within the community despite the changes that affect us. All of us have experienced change this year and as 2020 comes to a close we will experience another tradition in a slightly different way.

It is almost time to celebrate one of the most cherished traditions at Wake Forest, the Christmas Love Feast. You only have a candle, this letter, and information on how to be part of the Love Feast service this year. Moravian Congregations all over the United States and abroad eat and drink different things. I reached out to some of the Moravian ministers to see what their congregations use and thought some of their answers would be helpful for you at home.

In the Caribbean Islands you will have a type of Raisin Scone with Ginger Beer. In Britain you will have Milky Tea and a biscuit or cookie. In Dublin, Ireland you will have buns from a local bakery and Apple Juice. In Germany you will have a Raisin Bun and Milky Tea. In Madison, WI you will have Sugarcake and Milk. In the Northeast United States you will have Coffee, Hot Chocolate, or Chocolate Milk, and Sugarcake. In Canada you'll have Coffee, Tea, or Hot Chocolate, with assorted baked goods.

It is not about what you eat or drink during a Love Feast. Who you are with and why you are together is what matters most. 2020 has reminded us how precious our time together is and the value of making memories with those we love and cherish.

Gather whatever you have with those you love and share in this meal, talk about treasured memories, and future adventures together. Find a way to repair broken relationships, ask for forgiveness, offer grace, and show love so when we are all together again next year for the Christmas Love Feast, we will be stronger and better together.

PEACE AND LOVE DEACS,

Rev. Victoria Lasley

Moravian Church Southern Province
WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF DIVINITY CLASS OF 2017