



# OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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For Immediate Release

## **Our Saviour's to Host Moravian Lovefeast** *Simple Meal Harkens Back to Early Days of Christianity*

FAIRFIELD, Conn., December 15, 2006 – Our Saviour's Lutheran Church will hold a Moravian Lovefeast as part of a special service on Sunday, January 7, at 5:00 p.m. The Lovefeast, a tradition in the Moravian Church since 1727, takes its inspiration from the *agape* fellowship meal of the early Christians.

The Lovefeast is primarily a song service, opened with prayer. Often there is no address; the hymns in the ode, or order of service, furnish the subject matter for devotional thoughts. During the service, the congregation partakes in a simple meal of tea and a bun, served quietly and without interruption of the singing.

“We are pleased to offer our neighbors in the greater Fairfield community the opportunity to experience firsthand the Lovefeast, a celebration of Christian unity in the true spirit of *agape*, the Greek word for the highest form of spiritual love,” said the Rev. Mark Christoffersen, pastor of Our Saviour's. “Visitors outside of the Moravian tradition are often attracted to the Lovefeast out of curiosity and by the idea of eating a meal in church, but soon discover the spirit of reverence and Christian love that pervades this solemn service.”

Presiding at the Lovefeast will be the Rev. Otto Dreydoppel, Jr., professor of church history at Moravian Theological Seminary in Bethlehem, Penn., and director of the Center for Moravian Studies at the Seminary. Choral and instrumental music will be provided by the Youth Choir and Collegium Musicum of Our Saviour's, and hymns from both Moravian and Lutheran traditions will be sung.

The first Lovefeast was served in Germany on August 13, 1727, following the Renewal of the Moravian Church. Moravians (officially called *Unitas Fratrum* or Unity of the Brethren) are spiritual descendants of the Czech reformer Jan Hus. Moravians sent missionaries to many parts of the world, including to North America, where permanent settlements were established in Bethlehem, Pa., in 1741, and in the North Carolina communities of Bethabara (1753), Bethania (1759) and Salem (now Winston-Salem) in 1766, among other locations.

The Moravian Church in America and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America have been in full communion, sharing ministers and ministries, since 1999.

For further information about the January 7 Lovefeast, contact Our Saviour's at (203) 255-0545. The church is located at 160 Hill Farm Road (corner of Duck Farm Road) in Fairfield.

### **About Our Saviour's**

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), reaches out to the world and to its local communities with the Good News of the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The congregation receives strength for this mission through Worship, Christian Education, Service, Benevolent Giving, Witness, Mutual Support and a commitment to grow in faith and participation. Our Saviour's is guided in the belief that, "As God Gives to Us, So We Give to Others."

Holy Communion is celebrated during worship services at 9:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. each Sunday during the month of December. The church also offers Sunday School during the 9:00 a.m. service and Adult Forum programs between services. For more information, please call (203) 255-0545 or visit us at [www.oursaviours.net](http://www.oursaviours.net).

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