FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites Prepares for Historic Holidays Kick-off

BETHLEHEM, PA, November 2021 – Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites is excited to launch the Christmas season on November 19, 2021. Christmas offerings will be available through January 9, 2022. Visitors to Christmas City, USA will be able to experience Moravian traditions and partake in new additions, including Horse-Drawn Trolley Rides, Christmas City Stroll Walking Tour, Bethlehem by Night Motorcoach Tour, and the Live Advent Calendar. Added to the line-up in 2020, Christmas in the Quarter will also be returning in December for two weekends.

The weeks-long celebration begins on Friday, November 19, 2021 with the Wassail Party at the Kemerer Museum of Decorative Arts located at 427 N. New St., Bethlehem, PA. Immediately following the City of Bethlehem’s tree lighting, follow the jingling bells rung by Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites’ Docents on Main up New Street to the Kemerer Museum and join in the wassailing merriment. Lend an ear to festive holiday tunes to get in the holiday spirit. Light refreshments will be offered at this family-friendly event. For safety reasons, please register ahead of time for this event.

Admire the dazzlingly decorated trees of Historic Bethlehem, each ornament carefully chosen by the Bethlehem Garden Club to personify this year’s chosen decoration theme- A Cinematic Christmas. On November 19th at 5:30 p.m., see the lighting of the Trees of Historic Bethlehem, officially kicking off the exhibit. Trees of Historic Bethlehem, a time-honored tradition, features over 26 trees on display across five historic sites. The exhibit runs Thursdays through Sundays November 19, 2021, through January 9, 2022, from 11 am to 6 pm. Trees are located at the Kemerer Museum of Decorative Arts, Moravian Museum of Bethlehem, Single Sisters House, Luckenbach Mill, and 1810 Goundie House. A multi-site pass can be purchased for $25 and a single site pass for $12, children are $9. Special combination offers and discounts available in the HBMS online store.

Also beginning the weekend of November 19th will be several of tours of the Christmas City. Select tours allow for a purchase of the Sun Inn Combo pass which allows for the purchaser to redeem a voucher for refreshments from the Sun Inn during their tour. Cozy, serene horse-drawn carriage rides take you through Bethlehem’s beautiful downtown are extremely popular. The carriages depart on Main Street in Bethlehem in front of the Central Moravian Church. Carriage rides run Fridays through Sundays November 19 to December 1; Thursdays through Sundays December 2 through December 19; Wednesday and Thursday December 22 and 23; Sunday through Friday December 26 through 31 every 20 minutes between 3 pm and 9 pm. Each carriage is $75 to reserve for your private group of up to 4 adults and 2 children on laps and can be reserved online.
New for 2021, Horse-Drawn Trolley Rides have been added to the activity lineup. Running on December 11, 18, and 19, visitors can journey through Bethlehem’s beautiful downtown and enjoy the lights, sights, and sounds of Church Street, Main Street, and Market Street on a cozy horse-drawn trolley. Great family fun for larger groups! Trolleys run between 5 and 9 pm on the half hour and leave from Payrow Plaza at 10 E. Church Street, Bethlehem. Tickets are $25 per person and can be reserved online.

Take a walk through beautiful downtown Historic Bethlehem with our certified guide in period dress on the Christmas City Stroll Walking Tour. Tours run Fridays through Sundays November 19 through December 1; Thursdays through Sundays December 2 through 19; Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday December 22, 23, and 26 at 1 pm, 3 pm, and 6 pm. Tours leave from the Historic Bethlehem Visitor Center at 505 Main Street, Bethlehem, PA. $15 adults, $6 children, $10 members, special combination offers and discounts available in the HBMS online store.

The Bethlehem by Night Motorcoach Tour explores the history and traditions of Bethlehem. Sit back and experience the Christmas City on a trip back in time with our certified costumed guide. Tours run Fridays through Sundays November 19 through November 30; Thursdays through Sundays in December; Monday through Thursday December 20-23; Sunday December 26; Friday December 31 at 5 pm, 6 pm, and 7 pm. Tours leave from the Historic Bethlehem Visitor Center at 505 Main Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018. Tickets are $15 for adults and $9 for children and can be reserved online.

The Holiday Putz Trail returns to, the Moravian Museum of Bethlehem, the Single Sisters’ House, and Central Moravian Church. A Putz is a traditional Moravian miniature replica depicting various settings of the Nativity story using ornate, hand-crafted figurines. A multi-site pass can be purchased for $25 and a single site pass for $12, children are $9. Putz Displays are included in your Trees of Historic Bethlehem pass. Special combination offers and discounts available in the HBMS online store.

Each evening in December, visitors can gather outside the door of the 1810 Goundie House December 1 through 23 at 5:30 pm for the Live Advent Calendar. Each day, a designated audience member will knock on the door and a different local business will be behind the door to provide a treat to all. In partnership with the Downtown Bethlehem Association. The 1810 Goundie House is located at 501 Main Street, Bethlehem, PA.

Christmas in the Quarter, at the Industrial Quarter located at 459 Old York Road, Bethlehem promises to be buzzing with cheer December 11-12 and 18-19. Enjoy that classic Christmas feel with lights lining the historic buildings and fun for the whole family. Activities include pop-up shopping, Walking Tours, Christmas kids’ zone, a preview of Trees of Historic Bethlehem, a winter art exhibition from the Lehigh Art Alliance, Colonial Blacksmith demonstrations, and live music. with parking available onsite and in the Spring Street Lot. Activities run 3 pm - 9 pm. Special combination offers and discounts available in the HBMS online store.

Visit the Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites website for more information and to purchase tickets.
Historic Bethlehem Museums & Sites is a not-for-profit institution that brings to life three centuries of American history. Historic Bethlehem tells the story of a small town of great influence, home to some of our nation’s early settlers, to the first pumped municipal water system in the American colonies, and to one of the world’s greatest industrial companies. Historic Bethlehem is located in eastern Pennsylvania, only an hour’s drive north from Philadelphia and 2 hours west of New York City. Historic Bethlehem is an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution and part of a National Historic Landmark District - a designated site on the US World Heritage Tentative List. HBMS is proud to be a part of the effort to bring World Heritage Site status to Historic Moravian Bethlehem. We are pleased to share that as of Spring 2021, HBMS will be working in tandem with international Moravian Sites – Herrnhutt, Germany and Gracehill, Northern Ireland to prepare a joint serial nomination to the World Heritage List – a first for the United States.