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*Digitizing the Daily Text*

The Daily Text, also known as the *Daily Watchwords* or the *Moravian Textbook*, started on May 3, 1728. On this date, during the evening service at Herrnhut, Count Zinzendorf gave the congregation a “watchword” to inspire and consider throughout the next day. The first edition of the Daily Text was published in 1731. Since 1788, the watchword has been drawn by lot from a collection of 1,844 Old Testament texts. Since 1812, the doctrinal text selected to complement the watchword has been selected from the New Testament. There are also a hymn stanza and prayer associated with each day. Moravians refer to the Daily Text for daily devotional activity but also reflect on specific dates on various occasions. Most commonly, pastors use the Daily Text of a person’s birth date to inspire the sermon at their funeral. Only in recent years has the Daily Text for the current year been made available online, and no older volumes are available digitally. If someone would like to reference a Daily Text from a date in the past, they must rely on a printed copy. In the Southern Province of America, most people call the Moravian Archives to access the Daily Text.

To better provide this service, the staff at the Moravian Archives are digitizing the Daily Text and making it freely available online to anyone who wishes to use it. The project began in the fall of 2025. In this presentation, I will share the development and execution of the project, as well as the results thus far. I will also share the challenges we have faced and allow for conversation that may facilitate changes or improvements to the project.