

MetEd Retiree Trip - December 4, 2025

Christmas in Bethlehem

The destination for our annual Christmas trip this year was Bethlehem, PA, known as “Christmas City, USA. Bethlehem is known for its extensive holiday celebrations. And it didn’t disappoint.

Upon arrival, we exited the bus at the Moravian Book Store, the oldest bookstore in America. We took advantage of our free time to stroll Main Street and experience the many shops and enjoy lunch at the multitude of restaurants. A few of the popular lunch spots were the Hotel Bethlehem, McCarthy’s Red Stag Irish Pub, and Fegley’s Bethlehem Brew Works.

Our next stop was a Christmas themed market called the Christkindmarkt, featuring hundreds of vendors showcasing unique handcrafted goods. The German inspired holiday market is in the historic SteelStacks campus.

Before departing for home, a tour guide boarded our bus and described the early Bethlehem settlement by the Moravian church and its cultural ties to the community, dating back to its founding in 1741. Our guide was excellent, decked out in Moravian attire of the 1700s. She has been doing various tours of the city for 39 years. Bethlehem also has a rich industrial past. Bethlehem Steel being a major center for heavy industry and trade for decades. as evident by the SteelStacks arts and cultural campus, which is built on the former steel mill site. We toured the area of decorated trees and lights and even got a closeup of the huge Moravian Star located atop of the mountain overlooking the city before heading home.

Denis Dorward