

April 3rd, 2022
Fifth Sunday in Lent

CHRIST MORAVIAN CHURCH

Weekly Congregational Letter



Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 2nd
MEN'S GROUP meets
at 9:00 am via Zoom

Sunday, April 3rd
BIBLE BUDDIES
@ 8:30 am via Zoom

Sunday, April 3rd
COFFEE HOUR
@ 1:00 pm via Zoom

Wednesday, April 6th
WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP
CMC @ 10:00 am

Wednesday, April 6th
LENTEN BOOK STUDY
@ 2:00 pm via Zoom

Please check Guidelines
for Attendance at
Worship

Sunday, April 10th
PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP
10:30 am

Friday, April 15th
GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP
10:30 am

Sunday, April 17th
EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE
8:00 am
MEMORIAL GARDEN,
WEATHER PERMITTING

EASTER WORSHIP
10:30 am



Sunday Worship Theme:
Lent 5
"Christ's Anointing Love"



Moravian

Watchword for the Week:

Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:13,14

SECURITY SYSTEM

A new security system has been installed. Those holding entry keys should now have a new security code. If you have an entry key, but not a new code, contact the office.

APRIL 3RD IN PERSON WORSHIP

Please read the attached Relaunch Guidelines prior to attending. The leadership at CMC is continuing to take a cautious approach, striving to provide the safest environment possible to those who return. We recognize some will be hesitant to return at this time. If you feel comfortable, please attend in-person worship with us. We will continue to offer weekly services online as well.

PASTOR'S WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Greetings Friends in Christ:

The Christ Moravian Church community can celebrate and be thankful for so many things these days. God's gracious love, support, wisdom and hope have walked us through these last two years of a most challenging world-wide pandemic. The CMC community continues to awaken to healthy, loving friendships and relationships formed through the presence of the Holy Spirit creating a church with a heart, with soul, with joy and with a mission. So many other personal blessings, joys and gifts have been realized over these many weeks and months. As is often said when we begin a prayer..."We are the grateful ones, and thanks be to God's love in Jesus Christ".

This weekend CMC worship transitions back to an "In Person" worship service on Sunday at 10:30am. This we all joyfully celebrate. The Executive Board and Health and Safety Task force invite you to take note of the guidelines outlining our approach to this wonderful step, and you are invited to discern your readiness for a resumption to being in person in the sanctuary setting once again.

Additionally, this past week has been one of great celebration as the CMC facility is now FINALLY connected to the high speed internet service that is needed to "live stream" the worship service on Sunday at 10:30am. Please see the instructions that Steve Blackwell e-mailed March 31st to assist you to go to the YouTube Channel of Christ Moravian Church, Calgary. No doubt there may be some learning steps to this, so we invite everyone to be patient and understanding throughout the next number of weeks as we seek to share the Good News of Jesus Christ both in person and via an internet stream.

Lastly, the month of April is named as **Mission Month** at Christ Moravian Church. Please read the entire newsletter to share this important info on the emphasis for the CMC Mission Projects that God invites us to support.

April joy to everyone, Pastor Steve Gohdes

E-MAIL ATTACHMENTS

Please look to the e-mail attachments for information on Worship Attendance Guidelines, Bible Study, and BWM update on Ukraine.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Women's Fellowship group invite all women of CMC to an in-person meeting Wednesday April 6th at 10:00 am. We will meet in the sanctuary, allowing us room to "distance" ourselves. There are several important items to be decided; your attendance and input would be welcome!

A THANK YOU NOTE FROM OUR REFUGEE FAMILY

I do not know how to appreciate you guys. I express my best gratitude to every one in this group and I will tell about your support and help for my family and my mother who are still left behind in Kabul that here are such a generous and champion people who took our hand in a time that we did not have anything, so even my mom from Kabul prays you guys and she got very happy when I talked about support of this Group. Finally I would keep in my mind everything as a memory. Wali

LIVE HOLY WEEK; COMPANION WITH OTHERS

The stories of Holy Week are powerful and move all of us, each of us in a different way. Join us by Zoom on 3 consecutive days in Holy Week to hear and be personally touched by scripture readings describing Palm Sunday, the Last Supper and the Crucifixion. Briefly share, if you wish, what particularly spoke to you and be moved by what others experienced. Tuesday, April 12, Wednesday, April 13 and Thursday, April 14 at 2:00 pm. Come to all or pick days as your schedule allows.

Contact the church office at 403-271-2700 or by email: moravian@nucleus.com to register.

FROM THE DIGITAL CAMPUS TEAM

Each Friday, the church Facebook page will feature a short video from a new series that is being created. Get to know our church and our pastor better by watching "A Minute with the Minister." Pastor Steve will be answering a different question each week. The videos as well as other CMC posts can be found by clicking the Facebook link below. You don't have to have a Facebook account to enjoy them. And, if you have any questions that you would like answered in future video posts, why not leave us a private message while you are there!

<https://www.facebook.com/Christ-Moravian-Church-Calgary-106080191799781>

CMC COFFEE HOUR – NOTE THE TIME CHANGE TO 1:00 PM

We miss seeing you and visiting after church! Consider joining the CMC Zoom fellowship hour on Sunday at 1:00 pm. Each session will be hosted by a CMC Elder and will include time to catch up with others and explore interesting topics. April 3 – Mary Anne Gates hosts

To join, set up a Zoom account and click on the link below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84948717808?pwd=Um9uVjF5RnAxcmxNSlFYemp6N25qUT09>

Meeting ID: 849 4871 7808

Passcode: 414082

ACADIA FOOD PANTRY – DELIVERY PERSONS NEEDED

Acadia Food Pantry has an increasing number of clients who require delivery of hampers. Some have mobility or health issues; others cannot attend because of work or school commitments. Single moms find it challenging to navigate public transit with small children in tow while transporting hampers. If you're able to help deliver hampers from noon - 2pm on the third Tuesday of the month, please contact Donna Gordon.

WEEKLY REMINDERS

Please know that you may contact the church office for any needs that arise. Feel free to **phone (403-271-2700)** to speak with us or leave a message, or contact the church office by e-mail at moravian@nucleus.com

Indranie Perera continues to receive recycling for support of Sri Lanka.

She wishes to express sincere thanks to all who contribute to this worthwhile cause.

Cash and food donations for the Acadia Food Pantry are most appreciated. Food items may be dropped off at church and placed in the blue bin by the side door. Contact Donna Gordon if you would like to volunteer.

Watch us LIVE on YouTube

You can go directly to the church channel page by using this link -

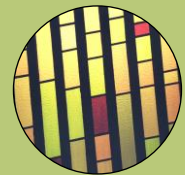
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9D8chO3ksAoPIS8yWZjT2g>

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Christ Moravian Church
Calgary

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www.christmoravian.com

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Realm Connect



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In all things, LOVE



The apostle Paul said, "... by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." (Galatians: 5:13-14)

April 2022 - Mission Month at CMC

April brings Easter and the promise of resurrection and new life. It carries with it a reminder that Jesus lived a life of service and love, and calls upon us to do the same. As such, CMC has designated April as a time for you to consider making a financial gift to the mission and service work of CMC.

As is our tradition, two important causes have been identified as deserving of your support at this time, one local and one global.

Acadia Food Pantry: *Did you know that some of the communities close to CMC have a high number of people living below the poverty line?*

In April 2019, CMC responded to this need arising out of Acadia Place by helping to establish the Acadia Food Pantry to provide free food for our neighbours living with food insecurity. Since then, CMC has been an integral part of this organization and currently ten of our members serve as regular volunteers. In March 2022, the Pantry served 53 households for a total of 151 people.

As a volunteer organization, the Pantry depends fully on donations to operate. In recognition of its third anniversary, we ask you to consider a one time or recurring donation to help the Pantry continue to offer essential food support to families in need. 100% of every donation is used for food and supplies.

Support for Ukraine: *Have you been wondering how you can help the people of Ukraine?*

Moravian congregations in Europe have answered the call of their Ukrainian neighbours to provide refuge from the devastation of war occurring in their homeland. They have opened their doors and hearts to give sanctuary to those escaping across borders, mostly women, children and the elderly.

One such Moravian congregation in Czech Republic is refurbishing a vacant hotel in their possession in order to house 15 families. Other Moravian congregations in Europe are welcoming families into their homes and putting them up in apartments.

The need within Ukraine is also great. Millions of people are internally displaced and living without adequate food, water and other necessities. Many service agencies are on the ground in Ukraine to help care for those who remain.

The situation in Ukraine is fluid and will have long lasting effects. 100% of donations made to Ukraine through CMC will go towards an area of most need as determined in conjunction with the Moravian Board of World Mission.

TO DONATE: Please mark all donations: "CMC Mission Month"

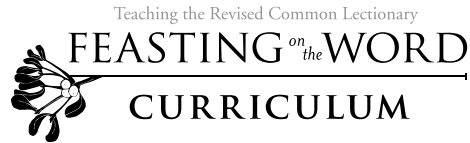
Cheque Payable to
Christ Moravian Church
600 Acadia Drive, SE
Calgary, AB T2J 0B8

e-Transfer
Email: donatecmc@nucleus.com
Include name and address for tax receipt purposes

MUSIC for MISSION CONCERT: CMC Mission Month will culminate at the end of the month with a video concert featuring many of our talented vocalists and musicians. Stay tuned for more details.

In all things, LOVE

April 3, 2022
Extravagant Love



Adult
Resource Sheet 1

Focus on John 12:1–8

WHAT is important to know?

— From “Exegetical Perspective,” Jae Won Lee

Jesus then compares his impending absence with the plight of the poor: “You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me” (12:8). Incredibly, this has been interpreted to imply that nothing should be done for the poor. Jesus’ saying comes from Deuteronomy 15:11, which enjoins Israel to “open your hand to the poor,” because “there will never cease to be some in need.” This actually means that something should be done because of reversals even when people struggle hard against poverty.

WHERE is God in these words?

— From “Theological Perspective,” George W. Stroup

Is there a redemptive significance even for Judas in the death of Jesus? In his betrayal and handing over of Jesus to those who would kill him, Judas, no less than any of the other disciples, serves God’s great purpose of saving the lost. If Jesus came to save the lost, surely there is no one in the gospel story who is more lost than the one who betrays Jesus, even if that is what Judas is called by God to do. If the Good Shepherd can and does go to any length to save a lost sheep, is Judas beyond the saving grasp of the Good Shepherd? Are there those Jesus is not able to love and save? Is there a limit to the reach of Jesus’ saving arm?

SO WHAT does this mean for our lives?—

From “Pastoral Perspective,” William G. Carter

Jesus is the gift of God. According to John’s Gospel, Jesus is sent into a world that did not request him, yet he acts entirely for its benefit. He consistently acts on his own terms, always revealing the grace and truth of God. Lazarus was raised from the dead on Jesus’ timetable, and not in response to his sisters’ wishes. Similarly, Jesus will lay down his life for his people (John 10:17–18), not because he is asked to do so, but because he chooses to give himself.

NOW WHAT is God’s word calling us to do?

— From “Homiletical Perspective,”

H. Stephen Shoemaker

In John, Mary anoints Jesus’ *feet*, another kind of prophetic act, signaling Jesus’ imminent death, anointing him beforehand for burial. She could comprehend and accept what Peter and the other disciples could not: the death of their master and Messiah. Here was also the action of the ideal disciple: the washing of feet. Jesus received from her what he would soon offer to his disciples, she “wiping” his feet with her hair as he will “wipe” (same Greek verb) their feet with his towel. Here is a holy emblem of the disciple’s life: washing and being washed.

Giving and Receiving Extravagant Love

Anointing

There are few passages so packed with beauty and truth as this anointing scene at Bethany. Matthew and Luke place it in the house of Simon the leper, and the woman who anoints Jesus is unnamed. John places it in the home of three beloved friends (John 11:5), with Mary as the anointer. . . . There was Martha, who had made the supreme confession of faith the chapter before (11:27). There was Lazarus, over whom Jesus had wept, whom Jesus raised from the dead. . . . There was Mary, the “ideal disciple” of Luke 10:38–42, who sat at Jesus’ feet and learned of him. The supper echoes earlier meals, signs of the in-breaking kingdom, and peers forward to Jesus’ Last Supper with his disciples.

Mary took the costly perfume and anointed Jesus’ feet and wiped them with her hair. It was an extravagant act of devotion. . . . There was a sumptuousness about her sacrifice that is true of all saints—a surprising excessiveness in their compassion and generosity. So Mary, counting no cost, anointed him. In Matthew and Mark, the woman anoints his head, a prophetic act anointing him king and Messiah. . . .

In John, Mary anoints Jesus feet, another kind of prophetic act, signaling Jesus’ imminent death, anointing him beforehand for burial. She could comprehend and accept what Peter and the other disciples could not: the death of their master and Messiah.

—Excerpted from H. Stephen Shoemaker, *Feasting on the Word, Year C, Volume 2* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009), 141, 143.

The Poor

Judas’ objection, “Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?” has a point. What church serious about discipleship does not struggle with the tension between money spent in beautiful acts of worship and money spent on behalf of the poor? The church has used these words both to justify and to condemn complacency toward the needs of the poor.

Jesus clearly was not counseling neglect of the poor. His words were a quotation from Deuteronomy 15:11, whose message is unmistakable: “For the poor will never cease out of the land; therefore I command you, You shall open wide your hand . . . to the needy and the poor” (RSV).

So here is an invitation to daily companionship with Jesus, at the Table, in extravagant acts of compassion and generosity, in moments of worship. All this in a world that lives by a mind-set of scarcity, rather than a mindset of abundance, and so tempts us to close in and give little.

—Excerpted from H. Stephen Shoemaker, *Feasting on the Word, Year C, Volume 2* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2009), 145.

Extravagant Love



Moravian Disaster Response To the Ukrainian Crisis March 31, 2022

The Moravian Board of World Mission in North America (BWM) continues to be in conversation with our Moravian partners in Europe to see how we can best help those who are giving refuge to families fleeing the war in Ukraine. Please continue to pray for them.

To date, we have received close to \$100,000, and we thank you for this critical support. We have sent initial funding to the Moravian congregation in Nová Paka, Czech Republic, who is renovating space in a hotel they own to house up to 15 families. They are also hosting a Ukrainian primary school, allowing them set up classes for the children. In addition to this, we have sent a donation to the Czech Moravian Province for them to distribute to other Czech Moravian congregations that are hosting families.

Moravian congregations in Germany are also sheltering refugees, and we have sent monetary support to the Moravian European Continental Province to assist congregations in places like Herrnhut, Königsfeld, Ebersdorf, and Cottbus. The money that we collect will help these congregations provide food, shelter, hygiene products, household essentials, school supplies, and transportation for these families. Through these tangible means, the love of Christ is being shared as these families are also being offered places to worship and Christian community.

For ongoing updates, pictures, and videos, please visit www.moravianmission.org. For further information, contact the Rt. Rev. Chris Giesler at chris@moravianmission.org or 610-868-1732.

Those in the US can send checks to: Board of World Mission, 1021 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018. You may also make your donation online at <http://moravianmission.org/give/> and click on the green "Give" button at the top of the page. Please indicate that your gift is for "Ukraine."

Canadians can send checks to:

Moravian Church in Canada, 600 Acadia Drive SE, Calgary, AB T2J 0B8

Interac e-Transfer donations may be sent to treasurer@moravian.ca

In the comments section, please mark this donation as "Ukraine" and include your name and address to receive a tax receipt.

Worship Service Requirements

- Prior to entering the building, all members and visitors must use the health screening checklist below to determine whether or not they should attend or stay home.
- There are no vaccine requirements.
- Masking within the building is required until this restriction is removed at AHS facilities.
- Self-distancing is highly recommended and encouraged at all times.
- Pre-registration is not required.
- Attendance will be taken at the door.
- Entrance is through north door, except for those with mobility issues who may use east door.
- Sanitizing hands at the door is required.
- Proper respiratory etiquette is strongly encouraged.
- Children are to remain with parents at all times.
- Offering plates will be located on a table at the sanctuary entrance.
- Singing and choral readings will take place, with masks on.
- Hugging, shaking hands or engaging in long conversations within the building are discouraged.

Do you have any new onset (or worsening) of the following symptoms?

• Fever	YES	NO
• Cough	YES	NO
• Shortness of breath	YES	NO
• Runny nose	YES	NO
• Sore throat	YES	NO
• Chills	YES	NO
• Painful swallowing	YES	NO
• Nasal congestion	YES	NO
• Feeling unwell / fatigued	YES	NO

• Nausea / vomiting / diarrhea	YES	NO
• Unexplained loss of appetite	YES	NO
• Loss of sense of taste or smell	YES	NO
• Muscle / joint aches	YES	NO
• Headache	YES	NO
• Conjunctivitis (commonly known as pink eye)	YES	NO
Please stay home if you have answered "YES" to any of the above.		