

April 18th, 2021

The Third Sunday of Easter

Christ Moravian Church

WEEKLY PASTORAL LETTER

Christ Church Watchword for the Year 2021

“As the deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.”
Psalm 42:1

Moravian Watchword for the Week: April 18th, 2021

“ See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. ” 1 John 3:1



Pastoral Newsletter for the weekend of April 18th, 2021
Sunday Worship Focus: “ Jubilation of Faith ”

Greetings Friends in Christ:

As we move beyond Easter Sunday and now begin to settle into the rhythms of springtime, we find ourselves discovering a sense of joy, peace, and love that may have been wrapped in insulation and thermal clothing during the past number of winter months. Springtime seems to bring out the child within us all, and the watchword of this Sunday expresses this very sentiment. We are called children of God!

As a grandfather of three growing grandkids, I’m enthralled at the various stages of childhood of the three. First there is the 4 ½ year old grandson who is playing on a soccer team for the very first time and with excitement tells me he scored 10 goals or was it 13 or was it 17. The number of goals is absolutely irrelevant, the number of friends he’s playing with and the self-satisfaction of playing a game are a treasure he’s found. Secondly, the 2 year old grandson is now fully operational as he walks around, roots into every drawer, box, or closet hoping to discover something new to play with or to call his own. His responses to our questions and thoughts are short replies, but he takes joy in “facetime moments” with grandpa and grandma to share a little bit of who he is. Lastly, there’s the 10 month old granddaughter who is learning to walk. It’s a wonderful scene of such adventure, determination, and wild-eyed glee found with each step. It means falling on the rump quite a bit, and even falling face forward to get a bruise or two, but those stumbles are short-lived as she seeks to step into the new achievement ahead of her.

I see our being children of God, wrapped up into these experiences. We are found teamed up with our friends and family and loved ones and the score of the game just doesn’t matter. We are the adventurers shuffling through the closets and drawers of our faith to know the treasure of grace and love God continually offers in Christ. And yes, we are the ones who stumble and tumble so frequently but keep getting up to step into the new day that God has made for rejoicing.

The Creator of heavens and earth calls us “children of God”.

Blessings,
Pastor Steve Gohdes

Upcoming Events

Bible Buddies
Sunday April 18th
@ 9:00 am
Zoom details are on the Events page

April 21st
Executive Board meeting
Via Zoom
@ 7:00 pm

April 27th
District Dialogue Group meets
Via Zoom
@ 7:00 pm

For more information, visit our website @

www.christmoravian.com

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Please check out these info items from CMC. Let's all keep safe as we get closer to the next days!

Worship Will Continue Online into the Future!

We have all seen the staggering number of cases of COVID-19 recently, and CMC leadership has recognized the need to continue to offer online worship service into the future. At such a time as it is reasonable and safe to begin gathering in person, the Executive Board will assist in making those decisions and plans. Until then, do stay safe and get in line for the vaccination for COVID-19.

- **IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE** in getting registered or traveling to your Vaccination location, please contact us at the church office and a volunteer will assist.

Suggest a Favourite Hymn!

In continuing to include the voices and ideas of the congregation in our virtual worship experience, you are invited to suggest a favourite hymn or worship song. Our worship planning team will endeavor to find a special Sunday to include these songs and add your ideas to the planning of worship. Email your suggestion to: moravian@nucleus.com or Phone the church office at 403-271-2700. Help us make a joyful sound unto the Lord!

75th Anniversary of Moravian Clinic in Ahuas, Honduras

We will include an additional email offering information to the upcoming celebration of the Moravian Clinic in Ahuas, Honduras on May 1st at 1:00 pm MDT.

Moravian Music Festival Info

Check out the opportunities for the upcoming Moravian Music Festival to be offered virtually this year. A link can be found on the Worship & Event links page.

Weekly Reminders...

- Please know that Pastor Gohdes continues to be available for any needs that may arise. Feel free to phone the church office (403-271-2700) to speak with us or leave a message. Or you can contact the church office by e-mail at moravian@nucleus.com with any questions or communication.
- **IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE in getting registered or traveling to your Vaccination location, please contact us at the church office and a volunteer will assist.**
- Indranie Perera continues to receive recycling for support of Sri Lanka. Sincere thanks to all who contribute to this worthwhile cause.
- Donations are still being collected for the Acadia Food Pantry. If you're able to assist, or perhaps volunteer some time, please contact Donna Gordon for details.

In All Things Love...

Children's Worship Bulletin

Coloring Page

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

Luke 24:36-48

Word Search Puzzle

E Z X V O Z D G I C Z K H X S
H Y G L B J E P C Z S G G X T
E P H H P E A C E B U U K B Y
S K O K R G D P I F F K T O U
Z K S I P R E A C H F A X N Q
Q W T D O U B T S A E W H E E
S Q X U U Q R I S E R A A S E
Z I F I X H F L B K R G M H M
K E S F R F L Y K H A N D S B
L F R B E L I U N O J S Q Z C
D S Z J K E L Y N A T I O N S
M P X G I S T L K Q Y J P F O
G U C F F H X Q N V H O V I K
H L S H A M M O V H L S X K X
Q A D K K V I Q T D N U L R H

BONES
DEAD
GHOST

HANDS
NATIONS
FEET

PEACE
PREACH
RISE

SUFFER
FLESH
DOUBTS



Jesus Appears to the Disciples

Your Church Name Here
Anytown, Anywhere

Decoder Puzzle

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.

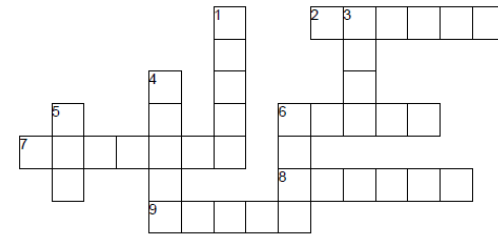
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 4-15-21-2-20-19 _____
- 7-8-15-19-20 _____
- 19-21-6-6-5-18 _____
- 2-15-14-5-19 _____
- 14-1-20-9-15-14-19 _____
- 6-12-5-19-8 _____
- 6-5-5-20 _____
- 18-9-19-5 _____
- 8-1-14-4-19 _____
- 4-5-1-4 _____

DOUBTS	GHOST	SUFFER	BONES	NATIONS
FLESH	FEET	RISE	HANDS	DEAD



Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- To deliver a sermon
- The soft outer parts of the body; skin
- Countries; territories where groups of people live
- To feel pain
- to handle or feel something with your fingers

DOWN

- What the skeleton is made of
- To return from death
- A dead person appearing in a bodily form
- To take in food through the mouth
- An animal that lives in the water

RISE	NATIONS	FISH	SUFFER	BONES
TOUCH	EAT	FLESH	PREACH	GHOST



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Focus on 1 John 3:1–7

WHAT is important to know?

— From “*Exegetical Perspective*,” David L. Bartlett

One of the main themes in our passage is the assurance of the present and the promise of the future: verses 1–4. In the Gospel of John, which is the source book for this epistle’s theology, eternal life is understood both as the promise of life with God beyond death and as genuine, fruitful, Spirit-guided life in the present (see the dual assurances of John 11:25–26). Our passage also claims that the relationship between believers and God has both present and a future, eschatological dimension. In the present believers have the assurance that they are God’s children.

WHERE is God in these words?

— From “*Theological Perspective*,” Ronald Cole-Turner

The source of our oddness is the love of God that makes us into God’s children. Knowing that we are loved by such a love, confessing it and consenting to it, we agree to be made different, to let ourselves enter a process of transformation that uproots us from our natural identity and reconfigures the fundamental definitions of our lives. Our birth certificate states our natural identity. Our baptism certificate declares our true identity. By God’s love, we are no longer strangers, orphans lost in the cosmos, without hope or direction except for our own imagination and self-rescue. We are loved, claimed, and redefined as nothing less than God’s children.

SO WHAT does this mean for our lives?

— From “*Pastoral Perspective*,”
Claudia Highbaugh

The most difficult part of this passage is working to open minds to a central kind of relationship that does not define itself by difference. In this text, cooperation is the goal; difference in name and culture and place is a distraction to the goal of right relationship. Children of God attend to right relationships. In the early church, people formed tight communities based on their faith in Jesus. Our job is to work at this sense of relationship one to another, and sometimes that makes us go back to start over.

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

— From “*Homiletical Perspective*,”
William L. Self

The opening chapters of this letter make it clear that Christians do sin. We not only need to have a clear understanding of God’s grace and an experience with that grace through Jesus; we also need to know the power and destructive nature of sin. No compromise can be made with evil. This text makes it clear, and our churches should take note. The journey to the center of the faith proclaims without compromise John’s way of making believers stronger and protecting them against the destructive message of those who would lead them astray. We would do well to learn from him.

Those Odd Christians

When God calls us to be children of God, we enter a process of transformation marking us as God's own. In contrast with what our culture values, we define our lives in unique and distinctly odd ways. In each Scripture below, write what the passage identifies as a mark of being a child of God.

1. Matthew 5:38–42

2. Matthew 5:43–44

3. Matthew 7:1–7

4. Matthew 16:24–26

5. Matthew 18:21–22

6. Mark 9:33–37

7. Mark 10:42–45

8. Luke 6:29–31

What are other marks of being a child of God that you can name from Scripture?

Child of God