

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: February 14th, 2021

*“For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as servants for
Jesus’ sake. 2 Corinthians 4:5*



Pastoral Newsletter for the weekend of February 14th, 2021

Sunday Worship Theme: “ The Transfiguration of Christ ”

Greetings Friends in Christ:

The most common first words offered in a phone call or driveway chat is “Are you keeping warm?” This cold, frigid week of -20 temps keeps us cocooned in the warmth of our homes - grateful for the furnace, fireplace, and warm duvet.

This Sunday’s worship message features the transfiguration event of Jesus upon the high mountain. Jesus is transfigured, changed, illuminated before several disciples and God’s voice echoes from heaven announcing, “This is my Son, whom I love, listen to him!” (Mark 9:7) These words resound with the message of God’s grace-filled presence in Jesus that offers a love and an empowering spirit as a warm duvet of life. We are invited to “listen” and “follow” Jesus into the experiences of service, support, love, and compassion that He enacts in ministry. Even on cold, frigid days the empowering love of Christ invites us into experiences of service ministry in ways that bring the warmth of God’s love to those we meet.

Below are several announcements for CMC community life.

Please call the church office should any need or issue arise.

With warm greetings and love,

Pastor Steve Gohdes

Upcoming Events

Monday Feb 15th:
Family Day Long
Weekend

Wed. Feb 17th:
Ash Wednesday

Sat. Feb. 20th:
Coldest Night of the
Year Virtual Walk

Sun. Feb. 21st:
CMC Church Council
Meeting via Zoom

Feb. 25th – Apr. 1st:
Lenten Prayer Retreat
with Rev. Rick Beck

For more information, visit our website @

www.christmoravian.com

continued on page 2

Messages of CMC Community Life

Ash Wednesday Devotional Experience for Feb. 17th

We are invited into a personal, or family experience of Ash Wednesday devotion in a service included in this newsletter. We must postpone our in-person Ash Wednesday service, but are invited to this safe and spirit-led experience of faith as Lent begins on February 17th.

Virtual Church Council Information

CMC members are invited to join in a virtual Church Council meeting on the Zoom link that is included in this email. The 2020 Financial report and 2021 tentative Budget were sent in a previous email today. Any questions regarding these items can be directed to CMC Treasurer, David Bennett at 403-479-1635.

Virtual Prayer Retreat in Lent

Check out the information regarding the upcoming virtual Prayer Retreat to be led by Rev. Rick Beck (retired Pastor of Good Shepherd Moravian Church). This group is limited to 12 participants and is filling up. Check out the information of the retreat and if interested contact the church office to register.

Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY) Virtual Walk for Those in Need! February 20th

Again this year the "Mighty Moravians" will be invited to assist in the fund raising support for the CNOY project, assisting those on the street of Calgary. See the information provided by Rhonda Amiot and sign up to walk or to donate. Let's plan to reach out to CMC friends and family for fund raising and make some steps on February 20th for this special project.

Charitable Tax Receipts

CMC Envelope Steward, Ken Schultz will be distributing the 2020 charitable tax receipts, and expects they will be in the mail no later than February 22nd. Please check your receipt and if you have any questions contact Ken at 403-281-4339. We extend our gracious thanks to all for the generous donations through a challenging year!

More Sunday School Activities

We have included some special activities for the children and youth. Check the attachments.

Weekly Reminders...

- Please know that Pastor Gohdes continues to be available for any needs that may arise. We are maintaining varied office hours, so please 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 questions or communication.
- Indranie Perera continues to receive recycling for support of Sri Lanka.
- Donations are still being collected for the Acadia Food Pantry. If you are able to assist, or perhaps volunteer some time, please contact Donna Gordon for details.

In All Things Love...

Christ Moravian Church
Ash Wednesday Service for February 17th, 2021
“The Journey of Lent begins with a New Heart”

Lent has been seen as a hard season in the life of the church. Its reputation seems demanding, dark, stanch, having to abstain from things we enjoy. Yet, as we peel off some assumption, we find a time of faith rich with devotional vitality. Through a time of discernment, prayer, and reflection it seems we are made new in a relationship with God that may have become listless and stagnant. Ash Wednesday begins these six weeks of a journey, and in your DIY (do it yourself) time of devotion and worship, you are invited to have your heart made new and reshaped for the days ahead. You can share in these devotional words, prayers and song silently or share them with those with which you are gathered, possibly even on the phone or a zoom connection. Begin your Lenten journey with a new heart today!

Lighting Your Candle of Peace!

Lent can be a journey, walked together or alone.
Lent can be a time of discovery, for each and every one of us.
Lent can be challenging, inviting us to find new parts of our faith and trust in God.
Lent can be pathway, from sunrise to sunset and ever beyond.
A candle of peace is lit that announces that God will guide our journey ahead. Amen.
(pause in prayer to light your candle)

Offering a Prayer on the Day of Ashes!

God, Creator, Divine Gardner, you have formed each of us from the dust of the earth. We know deep within we will someday return unto the earth and have our spirit's united with you eternally. May this day of ashes, this day of prayer knowing our humble walk on earth, may it come to remind us of this tremendous gift given in life. As each day lengthens with more sunlight in drawing near springtime, may the light of Christ shine forth with warmth, beauty, and hope. We invite the never-ending grace of Christ to enter our hearts and create in us a new spirit this day. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Song of Prayer: “Seek Ye First!”

(you are invited to sing, or say this special song)

Seek ye first the kingdom of God,
and God's righteousness
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, Alleluia.

We do not live by bread alone,
but by ev'ry word
that proceeds from the mouth of God.
Allelu, Alleluia.

Ask and it shall be given unto you;
seek and you shall find;
knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, Alleluia.

The Readings of Scripture:
Psalm 51: 1-12; Matthew 6:1-6

Our Personal Reflection:

You're invited to begin in asking yourself... "what is the biggest mess you've ever had to clean up"? Was it some closet that became a wasteland over the years? Might it have been outdoors? A dumping spot, neglected over the years? Maybe it was for someone else...a parent, sibling, friend who had let their home begin to be so cluttered it was no longer a cozy home, it seemed like a prison of stuff? Undoubtedly, we have all had some house cleaning, and life cleaning to attend to somewhere along the years.

In our readings of Scripture, we find some tension within the experience of cleaning up these spiritually messy parts of our lives. There are times we avoid our spiritual dumping grounds altogether so long that we find the only thing we can do is to begin to start peeling away the layers. Then as well we may find ourselves "digging into the mess" in order to give the false impression that everything is fine, that our spiritual lives are in order or tidy, when the truth is, we are really struggling. Messes of the heart bring some stress, some tension, some weight in our lives. Yet to avoid them leads to even greater angst and discomfort. It seems the Psalmist has finally reached the point of saying to God "create in me a clean heart" ... I've finally had it with this mess that I may have avoided. And in Matthew's reading we find Jesus highlighting that the thrust of this work is done deep within our own person lives, within our souls, within our hearts. There's no need to give a false impression that we've been the world by the tail, when the world has its own issues with which to contend.

Ash Wednesday invites a bit of house or heart cleaning. Looking within with anticipation, hope and expectation that God completely loves us and accepts us with the clutter and all. The house cleaning or heart cleaning is simply a matter of making some further room for the grace and love of Christ to begin to decorate us from the inside to the outside.

In highlighting that messy project that you noted in the beginning we are invited to welcome the prayerful presence of Christ to continue this promise of creating within a new heart as the days and weeks lead us toward Easter. You may wish to keep a journal highlighting the new experiences of faith that begin to occur with a clean heart received on this Ash Wednesday.

The Act of Creation in a Clean Heart:

As a last experience on this special Ash Wednesday moment, take a sheet of paper and a pencil/pen/marker, and draw or sketch a heart. Then seek to name or list those items or distractions that have found their way into your heart that you will set aside for these next days and weeks. Create a new heart on that paper that may symbolize the readiness to have Christ be within your life throughout this season of Lent.

Covenant Prayer of this Holy Day:

Holy One of this new creation and this new day, grant your life-giving spirit and breath for the journey amidst the season of Lent before us. Hear these prayers that are on our hearts at this time...

(offer your personal prayers for this day aloud or in silence)

Song of a New Heart: "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"

(you are invited to sing or say this song)

Make me a channel of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your healing pow'r,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace:
where there's despair in life let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, only light,
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

O Spirit, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving to all that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

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Benediction of the Day:

Ashes of yesterday are set to the side, as we walk with new life and a new heart today, O God. Invite us to journey into this new season with renewed hope and the anticipation of Your peace to unfold in ways of grace and love. With a new heart, we pray. Amen.

February 15, 2015
"Listen to Him!"



Adult
Resource Sheet 1

Focus on Mark 9:2–9

WHAT is important to know?

— From "Exegetical Perspective," Stanley P. Saunders

The transfiguration of Jesus confuses and terrifies his disciples, but the heavenly voice that speaks from a cloud confirms that Jesus is not only the Christ, as Peter has confessed (8:29), but God's own Beloved Son and affirms that his word of the cross is true. Everything in this episode—Jesus' transformation, the appearance of Elijah and Moses, Peter's babbling attempt to be useful—leads up to the moment when God speaks from the cloud that suddenly overshadows them, naming Jesus and commanding the disciples to "Listen to him!"

WHERE is God in these words?

— From "Theological Perspective," Marilyn McCord Adams

Functionally speaking, Jesus self-identifies as the Messiah who will be rejected and killed by the establishment, who will rise on the third day and return in glory. And Jesus identifies his disciples as the ones who take up their cross, who love Jesus more than our lives, who are not ashamed to confess Jesus publicly, the ones whom Jesus will acknowledge before the Father upon his glorious return (8:34–38).

SO WHAT does this mean for our lives?

— From "Pastoral Perspective," Rodney J. Hunter

The story of the transfiguration also reveals Jesus as utterly unique, not to be equated with even the immense spiritual stature of a Moses and an Elijah. Yet his uniqueness and divinity are not on public view. Mark strongly emphasizes its hidden character (and Jesus' persistent attempt to keep it hidden). The divinity of Christ is known only to those to whom it is revealed; it is not a matter of public record. The knowledge of Jesus as the divine Son is a matter of revelation that comes in God's own way and time—as a gift. It is not a possession on the basis of which we can claim spiritual status and institutional or personal power, as if to make little gods of ourselves by ruling the world in his name as many have sought to do (9:33–37!).

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

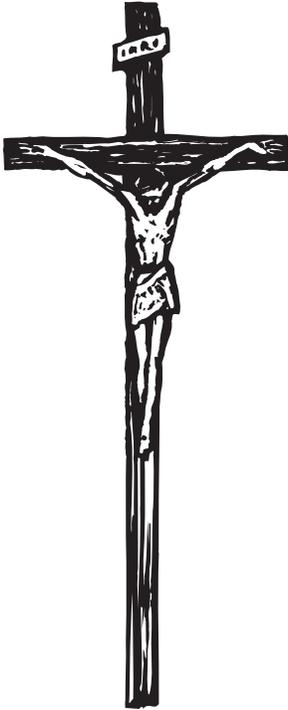
— From "Homiletical Perspective,"
Donald Booz

Any cursory reading of the Gospel of Mark will reveal a mixture of high and low experiences. Throughout the Gospel we hear Jesus speak about his death and resurrection, suffering and glory. Indeed we all want to travel to the mountaintop and experience the transfiguration with Jesus. Yet the text eventually moves us back down the mountain into the normal routine of life. Even if we have a mountaintop experience, we often do not know how to share it with the faith community. At the same time, the faith community may not know how to receive an experience with God on the mountaintop.

February 15, 2015
"Listen to Him!"

Adult
Resource Sheet 2

The Transfiguration and the Cross



But if the reason is hidden, its *inevitability* should be obvious from the perspective of history. Jesus' devotion to the reign of God on earth inevitably provoked "the powers"—the fear, hatred, greed, falsehood, violence, and despair that pervade and distort everything human—to make their oppressive, murderous response, even if this response also, ironically, made possible the disclosure of the triumphant power of God's nonviolent love in their very midst.

The transfiguration is therefore also a powerful word to *us* to take up our cross and follow Christ, to walk in his way that in one way or another will provoke the powers against us, but that ultimately discloses the eternal truth and trustworthiness of God's nonviolent love and justice in the midst of evil.

It is important, however, when speaking of the way of the cross, to be clear about what it does not mean. It does not mean that we should seek or regard suffering as a spiritual good in itself or as inherently saving and redemptive—as centuries of misguided Christian theology and piety have often maintained. Jesus did not die because his suffering as such could purge the world of sin and evil. He died because the powers of evil sought to destroy his witness to nonviolent love, justice, and truth. His passion revealed, not only the "evilness of evil"—its intrinsic, deadly violence—but the transforming power of divine love, a powerful, assertive love that does not dominate and defeat evil so much as challenge, expose, and seek to transform it. Such love alone ultimately carries the day; it alone is truly redemptive and saving.

Christians are therefore not called to exhibit a passive love that simply tries to be good and avoid evil. Nor is the way of the cross a private bearing of personal woes for the sake of Jesus. It is rather a vigorous, assertive pursuit of social and personal righteousness through a love that refuses to play the world's power game of domination, exploitation, greed, and deception. The transfiguration story is a call to affirm the ultimate truth of this contrary claim of God and God's way of salvation, and to begin living it with all our heart, soul, and strength in the confidence that Jesus' nonviolent way is truly the way of salvation, healing, and eternal life.

—Rodney J. Hunter, *Feasting on the Word, Year B, Volume 1* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008), 452, 454.

Worship & Event Links ~ February 14th, 2021

Topic: CMC Bible Buddies

Hi Everyone,
Attached is February 14th Bible study lesson – “Listen to Him!” – Mark 9: 2-9

Study starts at 9:00 AM.

Link to join is below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89356581732?pwd=SXNWZGNka240UHQ1aTVpOE9LNDdyZz09>

Meeting ID: 893 5658 1732

Passcode: 955392

One tap mobile

+12042727920,,89356581732# Canada

+14388097799,,89356581732# Canada

Hope you have a good week.

Barb: -)

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|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Links to Online Worship: | Christ Moravian | https://www.christmoravian.com |
| | Good Shepherd | https://www.goodshepherdmoravian.org |
| | Millwoods | https://www.mcchurch.ca/ |
| | Rio Terrace | https://www.rioterracechurch.org/live |
| | Moravian Church Northern Province | https://www.moravian.org |
| | for details of events happening within the wider Moravian Church | |



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We bring ourselves closer to God in prayer...

Challenging times can open us to a deeper spiritual life.

This Lent, revitalize your prayer practice through a 6-session online retreat.

Pastor Rick Beck will lead you through various prayer forms, familiar and unfamiliar, as you learn, practice and confidentially consider your experiences with other members of Christ Moravian Church.

Zoom Sessions (40 minute – 1 hour)

Thursdays at 7 p.m.

February 25 to April 1, 2021

Pre-register through the church e-mail

moravian@nucleus.com

Limited Space, sign-up now!

About Pastor Rick: Rick Beck is a retired Moravian pastor who now trains Spiritual Directors through the FCJ Centre here in Calgary. He has led Spiritual Companionship training groups, church camps for teens and many retreats within and outside of the denomination. Rick is known for his ability to listen from the heart and to sensitively lead individuals and small groups to consider their spiritual lives more deeply.

----- Original Appointment -----

Subject: Fwd: Church Council Meeting
Organizer: malcolm.mckenzie@shaw.ca

Location: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85325948482?pwd=cXJJeEdTT054VkZxVDUrbFF4ZmFyQT09>

Time: Sunday, February 21, 2021, 12:30:00 PM - 2:30:00 PM GMT -07:00 US/Canada Mountain
Invitees: sgohdes@shaw.ca

Malcolm McKenzie is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85325948482?pwd=cXJJeEdTT054VkZxVDUrbFF4ZmFyQT09>

Meeting ID: 853 2594 8482

Passcode: 845150

Dial by your location

587-328-1099

Meeting ID: 853 2594 8482

Passcode: 845150

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kQurMrJP8>

Children's Worship Bulletin

Following God's Directions

2 Kings 5:1-14

Word Search

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

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|---------|---------|----------|---------|--------|
| ELISHA | VICTORY | LETTER | PROPHET | NAAMAN |
| ARMY | ARAM | CHARIOTS | CURE | ISRAEL |
| SOLDIER | KING | LEPROSY | CLEAN | HORSES |
| SEVEN | HOUSE | RIVER | WASH | JORDAN |

Christ Moravian Church
 Calgary, Alberta

Multiple Choice Quiz

Choose the word that best matches the definition.
 You can find the answers in 2 Kings 5:1-14.

- ___ 1. How Naaman felt when he was told what to do
 A. sad B. happy C. angry D. tired
- ___ 2. The one who told Naaman's wife about the prophet
 A. a girl B. a king C. a soldier D. a prophet
- ___ 3. How Naaman looked after dipping in the Jordan
 A. muddy B. clean C. wrinkled D. clean
- ___ 4. The country where Naaman went for healing
 A. Syria B. Israel C. Aram D. Egypt
- ___ 5. The number of times Naaman was told to dip
 A. three B. five C. seven D. ten
- ___ 6. The person Naaman first went to for healing
 A. a girl B. Elisha C. a soldier D. the king
- ___ 7. The prophet who told Naaman what to do
 A. Elisha B. Moses C. Isaiah D. Elijah
- ___ 8. The river where Naaman was told to dip
 A. Nile B. Jordan C. Abana D. Pharpar
- ___ 9. The disease that Naaman had
 A. leprosy B. measles C. cancer D. acne
- ___ 10. Someone who serves in the army
 A. king B. soldier C. prophet D. girl

So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy. 1 Kings 5:14 (NIV)

Fill in the Blanks

Complete the sentences by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank below the story.

So Naaman went with his _____ and chariots and _____ at the door of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself _____ times in the _____, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed."

But Naaman went away _____ and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the spot and _____ me of my _____. Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than any of the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went off in a rage.

Naaman's _____ went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, '_____ and be cleansed!'" So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became _____ like that of a young boy.

2 Kings 5:9-14 (NIV)

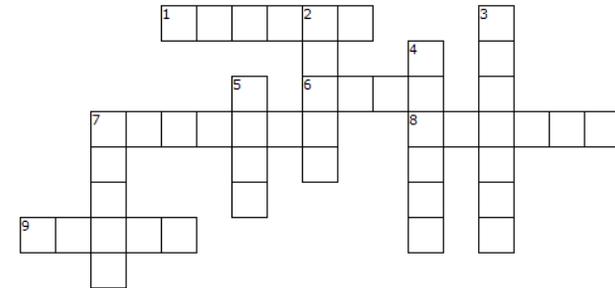
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|---------|--------|-------|---------|----------|
| angry | Jordan | seven | leprosy | horses |
| stopped | clean | cure | Wash | servants |

Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed."

2 Kings 5:10 (NIV)

Crossword Puzzle

Naaman Healed of Leprosy



ACROSS

- The river where Naaman was told to dip
- The one who told Naaman's wife about the prophet
- Someone who serves in the army
- The country where Naaman went for healing
- How Naaman looked after dipping in the Jordan

DOWN

- How Naaman felt when he was told what to do
- The disease that Naaman had
- The prophet who told Naaman what to do
- The person Naaman first went to for healing
- The number of times Naaman was told to dip

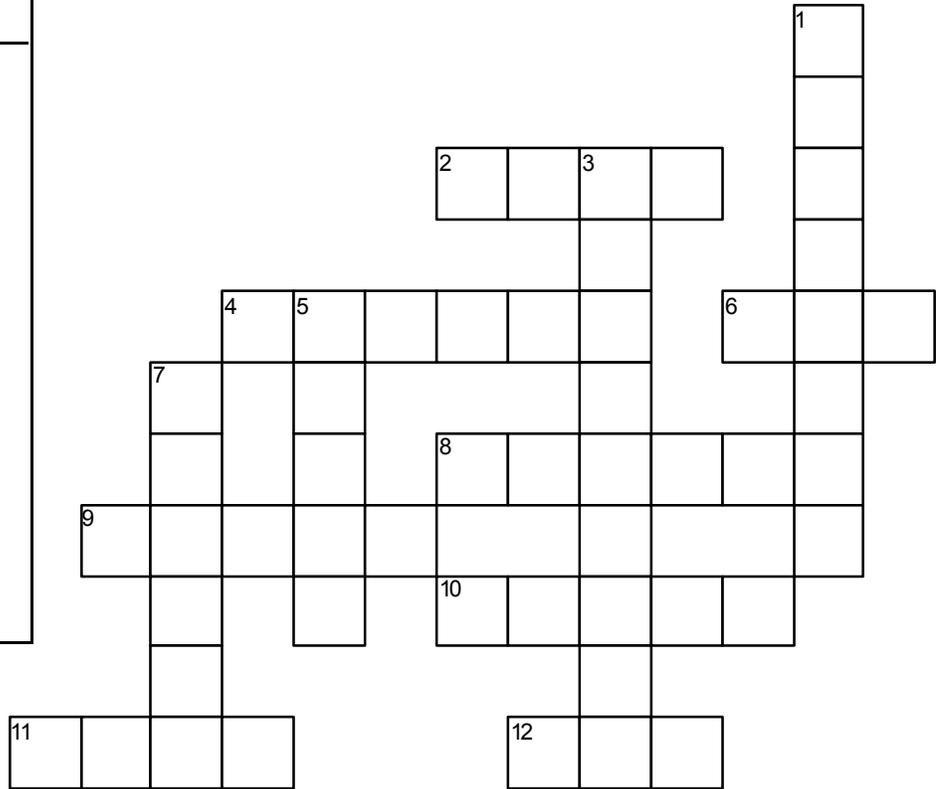
Follow God's Directions!

| | | | | |
|--------|---------|--------|--------|---------|
| JORDAN | SOLDIER | ELISHA | ISRAEL | ANGRY |
| SEVEN | GIRL | KING | CLEAN | LEPROSY |

Valentine's Day Fun

Word Box

candy
cards
dinner
February
hearts
hug
kiss
love
red
school
Valentine
write



ACROSS

- 2 "I _____ you."
- 4 We have a party at _____.
- 6 I give Mom a _____ before school.
- 8 Dad takes Mom out for _____.
- 9 Some friends give me _____.
- 10 We _____ messages on our cards.
- 11 Mom gives me a _____ at bedtime.
- 12 Roses are _____.

DOWN

- 1 _____ 14th is Valentine's Day.
- 3 "Be my _____."
- 5 We give _____ to our friends.
- 7 We cut _____ from red and pink paper.



Answer Key





The Saint Valentine Story

Good Saint Valentine



Once upon a time in a land far away in the city of Rome there lived an emperor named Claudius. He was very cruel.

Near his palace there was a beautiful temple. The priest who worked in the temple was named Valentine.

The Romans loved Valentine dearly and often came to the temple to hear him speak.

The young people would come to Valentine and ask for his blessing.

Rich and poor, old and young, all came to Valentine.



Now at that time in the Roman Empire, war broke out. Claudius, the very cruel emperor, called all the men to go to battle. The war went on year after year.

Many of the Romans were unwilling to go. The married men did not want to leave their families. The younger men did not wish to leave their sweethearts.

The emperor was angry when soldiers were too few. He ordered, "There shall be no more marriages and no more engagements!"

The Roman men were so sad as they went off to the war, leaving their loved ones at home. All the Roman wives and young women were very sad too.

The good priest Valentine heard of the emperor's command. He was very sad.



When a young couple came to the temple, he secretly united them in marriage in front of the sacred altar.

Soon other young couples came and quietly were married. Valentine was the friend of lovers all over Rome.



But, such secrets could not be kept for long. At last word of Valentine's acts reached the palace and Claudius the cruel emperor was angry, **very angry**.

He summoned his soldiers. "Go! Take that priest in the temple! Throw him into prison! No man in Rome, priest or not, shall disobey my commands!"

Valentine was dragged from the temple. He was dragged away from the altar where a young maiden and a Roman youth stood ready to wed.

All of Valentine's friends as well as their friends, pleaded with Claudius to let Valentine go. But the emperor would not listen. So Valentine was kept in prison.

Now, Valentine was a Christian.
Some say that Valentine cured the jail keeper's daughter of blindness while he was in prison. Others say he sent notes of love and hope from prison to all the young people who were pleading with the emperor to let Valentine go.



Still others say he was in love with the jail keeper's daughter.

But this we know for sure, the whole time Valentine was in prison, he did not forget his dear friends.

He sent them notes telling them Jesus loved them and asking them to tell all their friends that Jesus loved them.

And whenever he sent a note he signed it 'From your Valentine'.



Finally, while still in prison, Valentine died. It was the year 270, on the 14th of February.



Over the years people have continued to send love notes, which of course, we call Valentines, on February 14th.

Valentines Day is a wonderful time to tell someone that you love him or her.

It may be a friend. Or it may be a brother or sister that sometimes annoys you! Or it may be your Mom or Dad.

It is also a good time to tell others that Jesus loves them too.



I hope that you will share your love and the love of Jesus with someone this week.