

Christ Moravian Church
Pastoral Letter for the weekend of October 18th, 2020
Sunday Worship Video Theme - *The Gift of Generosity - Stewardship Sunday*

Greetings Friends in Christ:

As I prepare this next letter, I earlier took out my calendar and actually counted the number of pastoral letters I've offered during this year of Covid 19. This is number thirty-two. There is no special meaning to that, but it highlights the real length of time we've experienced since the worry of this virus began to effect so much of our lives. I reflect upon the writing of Ecclesiastes that speaks to events of purposeful time and check out the verse that I highlight in bold...Ecc. 3:1-8, 11

*“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:
A time to be born, and a time to die, A time to plant and a time to harvest,
A time to kill and a time to heal, A time to tear down and a time to build up,
A time to weep and a time to laugh, A time to mourn and a time to dance,
A time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
A time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
A time to search and a time to give up, A time to keep and a time to throw away,
A time to tear and a time to mend, A time to be silent and a time to speak,
A time to love and a time to hate, A time for war and a time for peace.
God has made everything beautiful in its time.”*

I guess this voice of faith and understanding realized this time of physical distancing would occur from time to time. May this time of our lives be found with times of beauty and wonder.

We received news that dear Angie Murray died on October 7. I invite our prayers of love, comfort, and support for husband Tom and their sons, Malcolm and Brent and family. As announced in the obituary the family will have a private memorial service. May God continue to shine with love and light through our lovely memories of Angie's blessed life.

The Executive Board and Fellowship of Elders both meet in these next several days and will soon announce some congregational plans for the church's life. As we all have observed, the patient and deliberate manner for our re-gathering in person reflects the sanctity and preciousness we hold for one another. So, stay tuned as these plans get finalized and we begin moving into the next days of this time of cautious life.

Those valuable recyclables are such a help to the needs of Sri Lanka. Indranie Perera continues to invite your donations to be dropped off at the church.

Last week's Thanksgiving Worship Video included so many special features, I want to thank all the folks who continue to be involved in sharing these worship services. We

taped the next service on Wednesday, and it highlights the generous grace and love of God, and our response as faithful stewards. Steve Blackwell will share this next service on Saturday again.

The usual information will be attached to this e-mail. Please call if there are any pastoral needs or prayer concerns occurring.

As this weekend arrives with some inclement weather, we may end up adding an additional verse onto the text of Ecclesiastes...

A time for shoveling and a time for shivering!

God's blessing of much love,
Pastor Steve Gohdes

Worship & Event Links for October 18th, 2020

Topic: CMC Bible Buddies

Oct 18 study: Tugs of War - Matthew 22:15-22

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89652809069?pwd=cG9MUnp1MmpNYTFMeFpzK1ZUQytWZz09>

Meeting ID: 896 5280 9069

Passcode: 370623

One tap mobile

+14388097799,,89652809069# Canada

+15873281099,,89652809069# Canada

Here is Nadia Bolz Weber's prayer from this AM:

"God of all things,

We made it another week despite the fact that 7 days ago I wasn't sure how. So thanks for that.

I have some pretty big fears about the future right now, Lord. I mean, some really catastrophic notions about what might happen.

If I could ask this one thing – please remind me that this moment right now, the one where the light has just broken the line between ground and sky, when all I can hear is the motor of the fridge and the clicking of that cheap wall clock I got from Ikea, when I am in my robe and half my coffee is still sitting warmly in my mug, is the only thing that is real.

Bring me back to this moment. Convict me of the fact that there is nothing I can do about the past, and that the days to come are never as real as the day I'm in. Because those fears of mine are starting to feel like a monster from the future that shows up each day and steals the joy, the peace and the pleasure of the present. And we are in the middle of a global pandemic right now and I need those things, Lord! Help me vanquish the fear monster. If indeed perfect love casts out fear, then remind me that you already love me in the days to come as you always have from the day of my birth to the day of my death.

This is the day that you have made. THIS day. Help me rejoice and be glad in it.

Amen."

This is Nadia's website: <https://nadiabolzweber.com/> it has her books listed as well as other resources.

Hope you have a good week.

I am grateful for you!

Barb: -)

Children's Activities

<https://kidsupfront.com/kidsathome/>

You could be happily busy!

Glo

Links to Online Worship:

Christ Moravian <https://www.christmoravian.com>

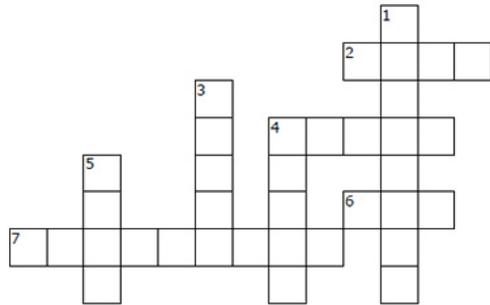
Good Shepherd <https://www.goodshepherdmoravian.org>

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

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

2. A usually flat piece of metal used for money.
4. A statement that agrees with fact or reality.
6. To give someone money in return for something.
7. A religious group who were strict followers of the law.

DOWN

1. A picture of a person -- usually showing the face.
3. The details of how something is going to be accomplished.
4. Money paid to the government.
5. A situation from which it is difficult or impossible to escape.

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|-------|------|-----------|-------|
| TAXES | TRAP | PORTRAIT | PLANS |
| TRUTH | PAY | PHARISEES | COIN |



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Children's Worship Bulletin

Paying Taxes to Caesar

Matthew 22:15-22

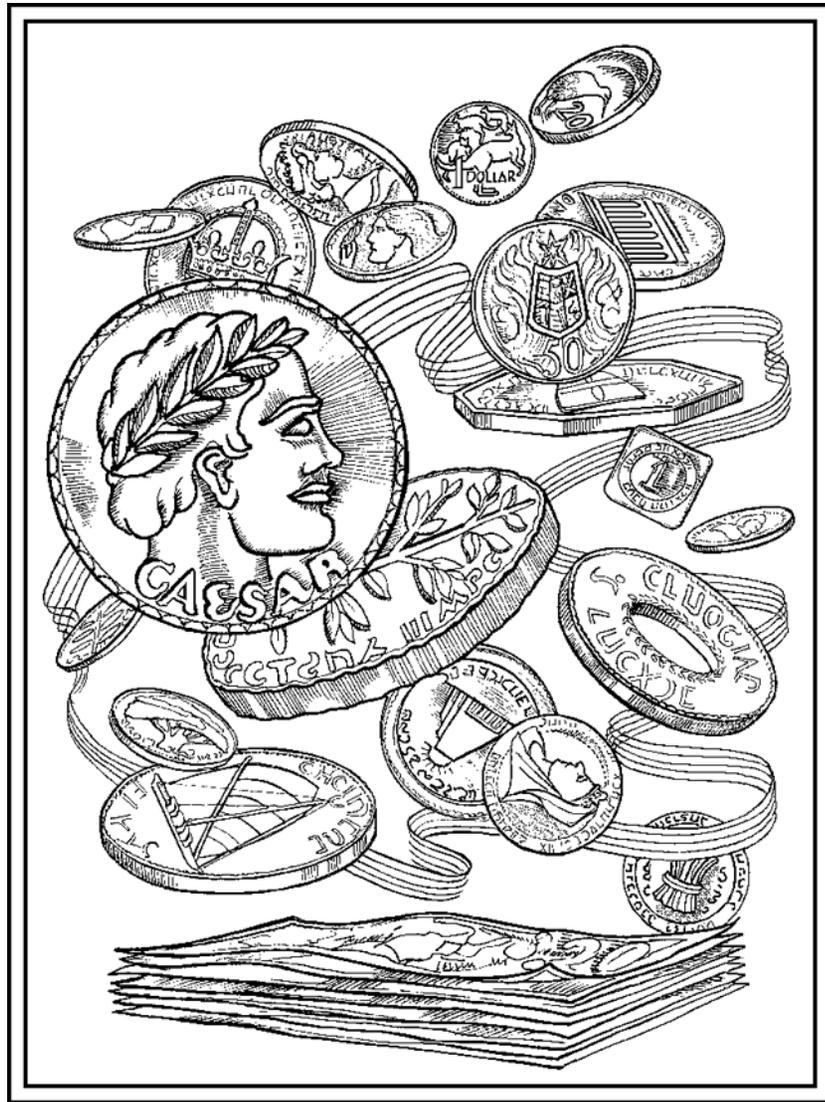
Word Search Puzzle

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

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|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| GOD | WORDS | DISCIPLES | OPINION |
| CAESAR | TAXES | AMAZED | REPLIED |
| WAY | PLANS | GIVE | TRAP |
| PHARISEES | TEACHER | INTEGRITY | TRUTH |

Your Church Name
Address
City

Coloring Page



**“Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s”
Matthew 22:21.**

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Multiple Choice Quiz

Choose the word that best matches the definition.

- ___ 1. A religious group who were strict followers of the law.
A. pharisees B. republicans C. hypocrites D. democrats
- ___ 2. The details of how something is going to be accomplished.
A. taxes B. plans C. trap D. words
- ___ 3. A situation from which it is difficult or impossible to escape.
A. trap B. plans C. truth D. coin
- ___ 4. Something that we speak or write.
A. taxes B. amazed C. words D. trap
- ___ 5. Someone who gives instructions to students.
A. teacher B. pharisees C. portrait D. Caesar
- ___ 6. A statement that agrees with fact or reality.
A. plans B. words C. truth D. trap
- ___ 7. To give someone money in return for something.
A. trap B. pay C. plans D. truth
- ___ 8. Money paid to the government.
A. trap B. portrait C. Caesar D. taxes
- ___ 9. What a person thinks about something.
A. trap B. opinion C. truth D. plans
- ___ 10. A usually flat piece of metal used for money.
A. coin B. taxes C. words D. pay



Focus on Matthew 22:15–22

WHAT is important to know? — From “Exegetical Perspective,” Susan Grove Eastman

Then comes the trick question: “Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” (v. 17). The Roman tax referenced here was levied annually on harvests and personal property, and determined by registration in the census. It was administered by Jewish authorities, but it put heavy economic burdens on the impoverished residents of first-century Palestine. So if Jesus answers, “Yes,” to the question, he risks alienating the oppressed Jews of Palestine; if he answers, “No,” he can be accused of fostering sedition. Brilliantly, Jesus refuses to do either, and in his answer he shows what is truly “lawful”—that is, what fulfills the law of God.

WHERE is God in these words? — From “Theological Perspective,” Andrew Purves

If Christianity remains the cult of the private, the community, or the institution, it sanctions civil religion and ratifies the religious sanctification of society as it is. While eschatology forces Christianity to refuse to identify the present structures of society with the kingdom of God, demythologizing civil religion, the cross of Christ forces Christians to become involved in concrete struggle for public freedom. In the light of the resurrection of Jesus and the coming kingdom of God, we set death and present social, political, and economic reality in a redemptive perspective; death and the deadly systems that kill and dehumanize people are criticized and mobilized against.

SO WHAT does this mean for our lives? — From “Pastoral Perspective,”

Richard E. Spalding

When we look at each other, or in the mirror, we tend to see the inscriptions that our business with the world has left on us: you are what you look like, what you have, what you wear. Nevertheless, underneath all those inscriptions is a much deeper mark: the watery sign of a cross made once upon a time on the forehead, the image of all those children in the arms of their mothers. All those faces are a part of your face, when you begin to see the image that God sees, the God who, in Jesus, stands behind us with full faith and credit.

NOW WHAT is God’s word calling us to do? — From “Homiletical Perspective,”

Marvin A. McMickle

Many issues speak to the places where this passage challenges the church today. There are devout Christians on both sides of all these issues. The question for the church is not whether we should or should not pay taxes. The greater question is, what do we expect from and demand from the government that is supported by our tax dollars? Not only that, but what does conscience demand of Christians when the actions of their government and the teachings of their faith appear to be in conflict? This has never been an easy issue, but Christians have never been excused from engaging it.

Who Are Those Guys?

In the movie *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, Butch and the Kid ask that question no fewer than four times about the band of pursuers who chase them throughout the movie.

In order to better understand today's passage, "Who are those guys?" is a good question to consider. Who are these groups that hound Jesus in this text—and who are two other groups that loom in the background?



Pharisees

Pharisees were a lay group (not priests) who believed that righteousness came through strict adherence to the Law, both written (Torah) and oral traditions. Their primary sphere of influence was in the synagogues, where teaching rather than ritual was central. It is ironic that Jesus has so many conflicts with the Pharisees, as they were the group most closely resembling his spirit of teaching (see, for example, Matthew 5:17–18).



Herodians

Herod the Great had been the last relatively independent king of the Jews. Though the Herodians are mentioned only twice in the Gospels, it is believed this group constituted a faction in Judaism that supported the reestablishment of a Herodian dynasty. One son of Herod, Antipas, ruled in Galilee (most famous for his execution of John the Baptizer). A nephew of Herod, Agrippa, would later come into power. Both Antipas and Agrippa relied on Roman favor to hold their positions. Thus, the Herodians would not have wanted to disturb this relationship.



Sadducees

Sadducees represented the priestly and scribal leaders who were in charge of the Jerusalem temple. While they, like the Pharisees, believed righteousness came through adherence to the Law, Sadducees accepted no other authority other than the Torah. Looming alongside the temple was the Roman fortress called the Antonia. To keep the Romans from further interfering with the temple (one tradition holds that Pontius Pilate even held the high priest's vestments in the Antonia, releasing them only for the Passover), Sadducees would have wanted to smooth relations with Rome to keep their own power and what independence they possessed intact.



Zealots

It is believed the Zealots originated in a group that rebelled against a Roman census in 6 CE in Galilee. Like the Pharisees, they believed righteousness came through observance of the Law. But the Zealots also had a fierce belief in liberty, and they believed that the Law could never be fully observed in the land until its Roman occupiers were cast out. The movement suffered a fatal blow when their revolt against Rome in 66 CE resulted in the destruction of Jerusalem. A recent book, *Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth* by Reza Aslan, provocatively associates Jesus with the Zealot movement.