

Christ Moravian Church
Pastoral Letter for the weekend of November 22nd, 2020
Worship Focus: *“The Reign of Christ”*

Greetings Friends in Christ:

It's getting colder. It's dark so early in the evening and so late in the morning. The snow is probably here to stay. Winter has arrived. It's in days as this that the “light of Christ”, the “bright morning star of God's love” seems to shine with greater brightness and beauty than the rest of the year. I'm grateful that Rev. Michael Ward leads this weekend's worship video and nicely highlights the anticipation and waiting of this season before us. This weekend concludes an entire church year of faith experiences and we will NEVER forget the events of this year. And, next week the promising season of Advent begins. I, personally, am ready for this season that God will unfold for us. With the heightened cautions of “in person” gatherings keeping us from being together, we at CMC will do our utmost to offer the church community special worship videos that seek to nurture our faith before Christmas. The “light of Christ” will come to shine in us and through us!

As mentioned earlier, Rev. Michael Ward will offer worship leadership in this week's video worship time. We are so fortunate and blessed to have an entire team or maybe an entire “family” that comes to assist the church to be “the church.”

We released the 2020 Music for Mission Concert featuring Marty Antonini and his friends, Darlene Roach & Heidi Gohdes. Lots of thanks to Steve Blackwell and his professional touch of editing this video. Enjoy! And if you are financially able, please offer a generous donation to the CMC Mission Fund to support the Moravian Church Board of World Mission Disaster Relief work and the Calgary Mustard Seed. A number of you have already watched the concert and sent your thanks and expressions of enjoyment. I invite you all to pass this concert link around to friends and those who may be “homebound” to enjoy. We all need a special night of fun!

The Good Shepherd Moravian Church's virtual Christmas Craft Fair continues through November. Check out the catalogue that is found on the CMC website.

Treasurer Ken Schultz offers a budget update highlighting the generous giving that has gone into supporting the life of CMC and its vital ministries. We are so grateful for all the support and we recognize that the Advent and Christmas seasons are special times to think of the church in sharing and giving.

As of November 17th we have received \$155,321 towards our 2020 total envelope giving budget of \$185,000. Ken Schultz, Envelope Steward

We announced last week our plans to get “Moravian Beeswax Candles” to everyone in preparation for the Christmas Eve video worship service. You'll be invited to quietly, safely, and faithfully share in this special Christ Church tradition. These candles can be

picked up at the church on December 12th between 1:00pm and 3:00pm. If you are unable to pick up your candles, they will be delivered by some of Santa's CMC elves. Make sure we know how many candles your family needs.

WARM FEET FOR THE STREET!

We will continue our special support of the Mustard Seed friends with filling socks for those friends at the Seed. An attachment is on this email of items to be included in the socks as well as "back packs". Plan to drop them off at the church when you pick up your candles on December 12th, or make plans to bring them to the church before December 17th. Let's help share the warmth and the love of Christ with our friends.

Last week we announced the invitation to be a CMC Prayer Partner in which you will be connected with friends in the life of the church to offer intercessory prayer and support for concerns or joys that are shared. Please contact me sgohdes@shaw.ca or Arlene Kawchuk kawchuk@shaw.ca to be added to our prayer partner circle.

Indranie Perera continues to offer thanks for the many recyclables brought to the church for Sri Lanka Relief. These "empties" help fill the lives of those in need!

Wishing you all a blessed weekend,
Pastor Steve Gohdes



Mustard Seed
Warm Feet for the Street
Build a Backpack
December 12 - 17, 2020



During the Christmas season, the demand for services increases greatly at the Mustard Seed. By filling a stocking or backpack with the suggested items, you can help the Mustard Seed meet the practical everyday needs of those experiencing poverty and homelessness. These special gifts provide hope and encouragement while serving as an example of Jesus' love. If you are unable to donate a full stocking or backpack, individual items will be accepted and sent to the Mustard Seed to use at their discretion.

Stockings, backpacks and individual items may be dropped off at the church when you come to pick up your Christmas candles on Saturday, December 12, 1 - 3 pm. The final day to receive these items at the church will be Thursday, December 17. If your Shepherd is delivering your candles, and you would like him/her to deliver your stocking or backpack to the church, please have them ready for pick up at the same time as your candle delivery.

Basic Needs * Urgently needed items	Additional Items
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel-size shampoo and conditioner • Hairbrush or comb • Good quality razors/shaving cream • Toothbrush/toothpaste • Nail clippers* • Lip balm/skin cream • Deodorant (men's only)* • Travel-size tissues * • \$10 Tim Hortons or McDonald's gift cards • Transit tickets • Earplugs • New underwear (men or women)* • Reusable cloth face masks • Warm gloves (not mittens)* • Warm hat or toque* • New socks* • Hand warmers* <p style="text-align: center;">Tag your stockings or backpack with the intended gender, male or female.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel mug • Water bottle • Jogging pants* • Travel size first-aid kit • Men's sports hat • Women's costume jewelry • Deck of cards • Travel mug (not ceramic) • Crossword/word game/ puzzle books • Flash light or book light • Ear buds • Multi-plug phone cord <p>Please DO NOT INCLUDE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food items • Candy or chocolate • Items containing an alcohol base: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mouthwash ○ Perfume or cologne ○ Hand sanitizer

Unto the Least of these

Matthew 25:31-46

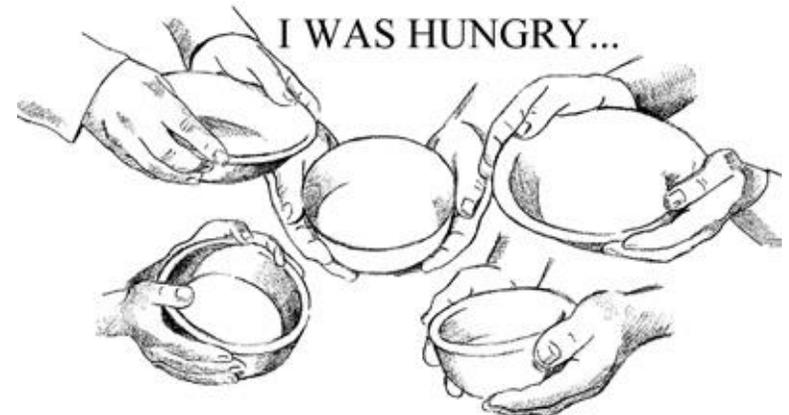
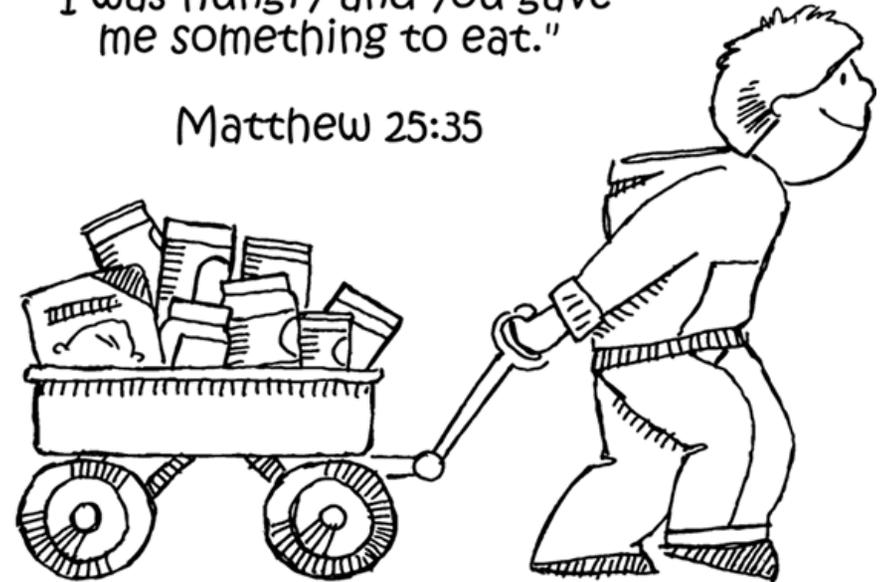
Word Search Puzzle

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

CLOTHED	SHEPHERD	HUNGRY	KING	STRANGER
LEAST	BLESSED	THRONE	SICK	EAT
GLORY	LIFE	ANGELS	DRINK	THIRSTY
BROTHERS	FATHER	ETERNAL	PRISON	COME

"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat."

Matthew 25:35



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 600 Acadia Drive SE
 Calgary, AB T2J 0B8

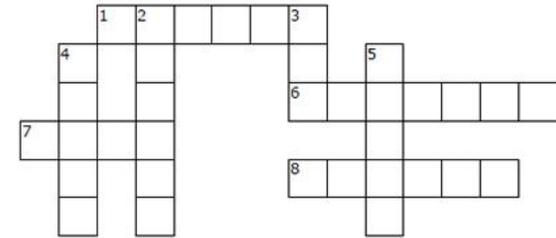
Multiple Choice

Choose the answer that best matches the definition.

- ___ 1. A special chair used by a king or queen
A. throne B. stool C. recliner D. high chair
- ___ 2. To feel a desire or need for food
A. thirsty B. tired C. full D. hungry
- ___ 3. To go to spend time with someone
A. vacation B. visit C. journey D. throne
- ___ 4. A place where people are kept as a punishment
A. school B. church C. prison D. home
- ___ 5. The need or desire to drink something, especially water
A. hungry B. thirsty C. sleepy D. tired
- ___ 6. To put food into the mouth, chew it, and swallow it
A. eat B. drink C. hungry D. sleep
- ___ 7. To take in and swallow liquid through the mouth
A. chew B. drink C. eat D. thirsty
- ___ 8. A man who rules a country
A. queen B. prince C. king D. princess



Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. A special chair used by a king or queen
6. The need or desire to drink something, especially water
7. A man who rules a country
8. A place where people are kept as a punishment

DOWN

2. To feel a desire or need for food
3. To put food into the mouth, chew it, and swallow it
4. To take in and swallow liquid through the mouth
5. To go to spend time with someone

EAT
VISIT

THIRSTY
KING

HUNGRY
THRONE

PRISON
DRINK

I was hungry
and you

gave me meat...

Matthew 25:35



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Focus on Matthew 25:31–46

WHAT is important to know? — *From “Exegetical Perspective,” Thomas D. Stegman, SJ*
Matthew’s description of the last judgment ends with the notice that “the righteous” will be called to inherit eternal life (v. 46). These are the merciful who are blessed (Matt. 5:7), the people whose hunger and thirst for righteousness (Matt. 5:6) leads them to respond with compassion to the hunger and thirst of others. Jesus teaches that God’s reign—the full revelation of which we await—is characterized in the present, not by powerful works and miracles, but by deeds of love, mercy, and compassion, especially toward those most in need. Jesus’ kingly ministry is to be reflected in his followers’ exercise of shepherding care.

WHERE is God in these words? — *From “Theological Perspective,” Mark Douglas*
This text needs other texts in Matthew and throughout Scripture that, while not necessarily untying its knots, at least place them in larger contexts. Other texts and further theological exploration might remind us that Christians are always both recipients of the gospel and witnesses to it. Each of us is both unbeliever and believer, both commanded to care and in need of care, both judged by the Son of Man and identified with him in our weakness, both under judgment for our failures to pursue justice and saved by grace, both a goat and a sheep.

SO WHAT does this mean for our lives? — *From “Pastoral Perspective,” John M. Buchanan*
What I can do and am called to do is to remember what Jesus said: “When you did it to one of the least of these, my family, you did it to me”—not, please notice, just the certifiably hungry and truly deserving. The only criterion he set was “least of these,” which means those who are weak and vulnerable, the little ones, particularly the small ones, the children. So what you and I can do and are called to do is not to ignore and overlook, but to look into a human face and to see there the face of Jesus Christ, because that is what he said.

NOW WHAT is God’s word calling us to do? — *From “Homiletical Perspective,”
Lindsay P. Armstrong*

This Scripture testifies that salvation is something we discover, often when we least expect it. In Matthew 25:37–39, the righteous are surprised to realize they had cared for the King of creation; evidently, they simply shared who they were and what they had freely, without calculation or expectation. In verse 44, the unrighteous are shocked that they missed opportunities to show love to the King; had they known God was in their midst, they would have done the right thing. Yet, the King is looking for a natural overflowing of love, not calculated efforts designed to project a certain image. This is the kind of love Jesus has come to demonstrate and share.

Meeting Christ in Human Need

The parable sets the language of Christ's surprising presence in past tense: "I was hungry, . . . I was . . ." For us to take the parable to heart, however, the shift must be made to present tense. Christ *is* among us, in the person of those who hunger, who thirst . . . So the missional question is: How will we respond to the ones in whom we encounter Christ today? In the spaces below, reflect on how you will respond to the Christ you encounter in human need.

I Am Hungry How Will You Give Me Food?

I Am Thirsty How Will You Quench My Thirst?

I Am a Stranger How Will You Welcome Me?

I Am Naked How Will You Clothe Me?

I Am Sick How Will You Care for Me?

I Am in Prison How Will You Visit Me?



Worship & Event Links for November 22nd, 2020

Topic: CMC Bible Buddies

Attached is Nov 22nd's Bible Study lesson: Facing Jesus- Matthew 25:31-46

Here is the link to join:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87298628465?pwd=T0UxcnpQd0w0SzR6NVFEY2dia1Jvdz09>

Meeting ID: 872 9862 8465

Passcode: 877404

One tap mobile

+14388097799,,87298628465# Canada

+15873281099,,87298628465# Canada

Hope you have a great week.

“Nothing ventured, Nothing gained”. May you enter into God’s Joy as you use your talents for His Kingdom.

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

Board of World Mission Update on Hurricanes Eta and Iota November 17, 2020



On Tuesday, November 17, 2020, Hurricane Iota slammed into Nicaragua's northeastern coast, making landfall near Haulover, just south of Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua, as a category 4 storm with top winds at 155 mph. This is almost precisely the same spot that Hurricane Eta hit just two weeks ago. Extensive damage from life-threatening storm surge, high winds, and rain has affected Nicaragua and Honduras just to the north.

Recovery efforts from Hurricane Eta were in full swing when this second storm hit. The BWM mission has already released \$30,000 in aid to Provincial church leaders in both countries, and food and emergency supplies have begun to arrive. But with the second storm doing even more damage to roads, bridges, and airport landing strips, moving these needed materials has been difficult.



Wawa Bar after Hurricane Eta

In Nicaragua, residents of the small towns such as Wawa Bar and Haulover were evacuated to Puerto Cabezas and are being housed in churches and schools. There are over 700 such refugees so far. Conditions are crowded, and no doubt have been made even less hospitable given this latest storm.

In Honduras, villages all along the seacoast such as Ují, Puswaia, Krata, Yauhrabila, Kruta, Irlaya, Benk, Raya, have been evacuated to Puerto Lempira schools. The national government's disaster

agency, COPECO, is working in Lempira, and the municipal government is also trying to help, but it is not enough.

Because of his extensive contacts in the region, Brother Rick Nelson is now helping coordinate the BWM relief effort in both countries. He has had comprehensive conversations with Provincial leaders and relief agencies such as Mission Aviation Fellowship, Feed the Hungry, Habitat for Humanity, and others to get more aid into these areas.

The most critical needs continue to be food, clean water, medicine, and materials for temporary shelters and damaged homes. The Board of World Mission needs your help to bring these needed resources to the people that need it right now.

We ask for your continued support of the Moravian Disaster Response fund, which allows the BWM to respond to disasters immediately with funds for emergency needs, as well as ongoing rebuilding projects. US residents can send donations to The Board of World Mission, 1021 Center St. Bethlehem, PA 18018. Canadian residents can send gifts to The Moravian Church in Canada, 600 Acadia Drive SE, Calgary, AB T2J 0B8.



Food purchased with donations to BWM being distributed in Paptalaya/Ahuas

**To give online by going to www.moravianmission.org/give
Please mark your donation, "For MDR."**