



CHRIST MORAVIAN CHURCH

In Essentials, Unity; In Non-Essentials, Liberty; In All Things, Love

Contact Us

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Church Secretary: Andrea
Music: Heidi Gohdes
Newsletter: Donna Gordon

Executive Board

Chair: Alan Bartlett
Vice Chair: David Bennett
Secretary: Pat Holm
Bookkeeper: Bobbie Callander
Treasurer: Roger Lohrey
Spiritual Programs: Arlene Kawchuk, Donna Gordon, Alan Bartlett
Congregational Nurture: Glen Newberry, Bob Tedrick
Mission & Outreach: Donna Gordon, Martin Driver, David Bennett
Church Operations: Arn Wylie, Roger Lohrey
Finance: Roger Lohrey, Pat Holm

Church Elders

Bernard Amiot, Mary Ann Gates, Pastor Stephen Gohdes, Holly Heffernan, Doug Hill, Duncan McKerchar, Brian Pemberton, Gloria Taylor, Gloria Toole, Pat Wollf, Doug Zeck



Pastor's Message

Thoughts for the New Year

That simple Moravian tradition of drawing a scripture watchword continues to hold such meaning for me. Along with my own personal scripture text, to randomly select a guiding or vision-casting text for us as a congregation is such a special activity. Again this year our Christ Moravian Church watchword is quite fitting. 2 Corinthians 3:3 "Paul wrote: You are a letter of Christ, prepared by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God."

Imagine the special letter or message which each of us will express throughout 2018. Your message (written by God's Spirit) may be one of comfort for someone in distress; or one of support for someone in need; or one of hope for a world struggling with dark, dark issues.

As I look forward to the next year, I can't wait to read your letter, and I can't wait to hear the message you have to offer. It won't be written on paper with ink or a text on an iPhone, no, your message will be cast by the Spirit of a living God upon those ears and hearts to which you speak.

Have a blessed 2018.

Pastor Steve Gohdes

NEW YEAR PRAYER

*Thank you Lord for giving me the brand new year ahead.
Help me live the way I should as each new day I tread.
Give me gentle wisdom that I might help a friend.
Give me strength and courage so a shoulder I might lend.
The year ahead is empty. Help me fill it with good things.
Each new day filled with faith and the joyfulness it brings. Amen*

NEWS & EVENTS

Upcoming Events

Sundays

Bible Study: Date TBA
 Worship Service: 10:30 am
 Communion: 1st Sunday
 Noisy Offering: Last Sunday

January 2018

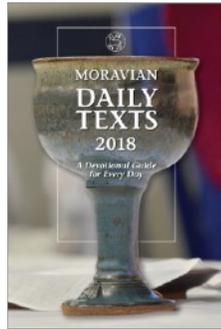
6 Men's Breakfast, 8:30am
 11 Canasta, 1 pm
 Elders Meeting, 7 pm
 16 ANAG mtg 1-3 pm
 Exec Board Meeting, 7 pm
 25 Canasta, 1 pm
 26 Ladies Tea, 1:15 pm
 31 Knitting & Craft Group,
 10:30 am - 2:30 pm

February 2018

3 Men's Breakfast 8:30 am
 4 Church Council, 11:30 am
 7 Women's Fellowship, 1:15pm
 8 Canasta 1 pm
 14 Ash Wednesday
 22 Canasta 1 pm
 23 Ladies Tea 1:15 pm
 28 Knitting/Craft Group
 10:30 am - 2:30 pm

March 2018

3 Pre-Synod mtg 9 am - 1 pm



The Moravian practice of having a Biblical text as a shared daily "Watchword" for use as a common guide to meditation and conduct began in 1722 with Zinzedorf and the Moravians of Herrnhut, Germany. In 1731, a series of texts were printed for the full year, with the texts supplemented by hymn verses. So began the tradition which is continued today. The Old Testament texts are chosen by lot and a New Testament text is then added. This process still takes place annually in Herrnhut. Daily Texts are translated into more than fifty languages and are used far beyond the membership of the Moravian Church. Copies of the Daily Texts are available for purchase at the church, or you may view online at: www.moravian.org/todays-daily-text/daily-text/

Winter Church Council Meeting
 February 4, 2018 at Noon

All congregational members are called to attend the upcoming winter church council meeting. This brief meeting has three agenda points.

- 1) Accepting the financial statements of 2017.
- 2) Accepting the proposed budget for 2018.
- 3) Electing a Delegate to the 2018 Provincial Synod in Bethlehem, PA.

Any other agenda items should be brought forward to Chair Alan Bartlett prior to the meeting.

Delegate for Provincial Synod 2018



The Provincial Synod of the Moravian Church Northern Province will be held June 21 - 25, 2018 in Bethlehem, PA. The Executive Board of CMC is seeking nominations for a delegate to attend synod as our representative. Donna Gordon and Holly Heffernan will attend as representatives of the Board of Elders of the Canadian District.

An election will be held at Church Council February 4, and a pre-synod meeting will take place at CMC on March 3, 2018. **If you are interested in attending synod or would like to nominate someone, please speak with Alan Bartlett or Pastor Gohdes.**

[Click on the Passage to
Read the Scripture](#)

SCRIPTURE AND WORSHIP

Jan 7

[Genesis 1:1-5](#)

[Psalm 29](#)

[Acts 19:1-7](#)

[Mark 1:4-11](#)

Jan 14

[1 Samuel 3:1-10, \(11-20\)](#)

[Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18](#)

[1 Corinthians 6:12-20](#)

[John 1:43-51](#)

Jan 21

[Jonah 3:1-5, 10](#)

[Psalm 62:5-12](#)

[1 Corinthians 7:29-31](#)

[Mark 1:14-20](#)

Jan 28

[Deuteronomy 18:15-20](#)

[Psalm 111](#)

[1 Corinthians 8:1-13](#)

[Mark 1:21-28](#)

Feb 4

[Isaiah 40:21-31](#)

[Psalm 147:1-11, 20c](#)

[1 Corinthians 9:16-23](#)

[Mark 1:29-39](#)

Feb 11

[2 Kings 2:1-12](#)

[Psalm 50:1-6](#)

[2 Corinthians 4:3-6](#)

[Mark 9:2-9](#)

Feb 14

[Joel 2:1-2, 12-17](#)

[Psalm 51:1-17](#)

[2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10](#)

[Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21](#)

Feb 18

[Genesis 9:8-17](#)

[Psalm 25:1-10](#)

[1 Peter 3:18-22](#)

[Mark 1:9-15](#)

Feb 25

[Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16](#)

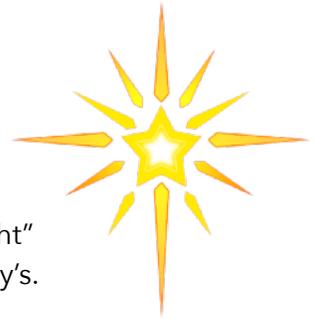
[Psalm 22:23-31](#)

[Romans 4:13-25](#)

[Mark 8:31-38](#)

Worship to Feed the Soul!

As the long, dark, cold months of January and February occur, Sunday worship becomes a source of delight and joy for us. January worship begins in the season of "Epiphany", a time in which God's presence "comes to light" through Jesus. Here are some highlights of these Sunday's.



EPIPHANY'S THEME...Finding the Light!

- January 7** Scripture focus: Mark 4: 4- 11, *The Baptism of Jesus. God is in our midst at times of birth, beginning and blessing.* Special Music offered by Marty Antonini. Holy Communion will be celebrated.
- January 14** Scripture Focus: Matthew 4:12-23, *Jesus' ministry begins in calling friends in discipleship ministry.* Special Music shared by Marty Antonini.
- January 21** As Rev. Gohdes is away, we welcome The Rev. Michael Ward who'll offer a refreshing service of worship. Special Music shared by Kathy Peppers.
- January 28** Scripture Focus: Mark 1:21-28, *Jesus heals the sick.* Special Music shared by Carl Richards, Dwight Blix and Linda Jablonski. January Birthday Celebration.
- February 4** Scripture Focus: Mark 1:29-39, *Jesus's love revives many who are hurting.* Holy Communion is celebrated.
- February 11** Scripture Focus: Mark 9:2-9, *The transfiguration of Jesus upon the mountaintop.*



Beginning of Lent

- February 14** **Ash Wednesday Fireside Service, 7pm**
Join us around the fireside for this quiet service of ashes.
- February 18** Scripture Focus: Mark 1: 9-15, *Jesus faces the desert temptations.*
- February 25** Scripture Focus: Mark 8:31-38, *Jesus teaches about living a full life by emptying oneself.* February Birthday Sunday.

MORAVIAN MOMENT

Early Moravian Missions to First Nations of North America: David Zeisberger

Submitted by Holly Heffernan & Donna Gordon

In October 2017 Holly Heffernan and Donna Gordon headed to Ohio as members of the Board of Elders of the Canadian District to meet with the Provincial Elders Conference (PEC) and the Western and Eastern District Boards of the Moravian Church, Northern Province (MCNP). This was the second of three meetings to prepare a report for Synod in June 2018 on the Identity, Purpose and Organization (IPO) of the MCNP. Our meetings were held at the John Heckewelder Memorial Moravian Church in Gnadenuhnten, near the site of important historical Moravian settlements and events. While there, we had the opportunity to learn about the Moravian missionary, David Zeisberger, and visit historical sites at the villages of Schoenbrunn (Beautiful Spring) and Gnadenuhnten (Tents of Grace).

David Zeisberger was born 1721 in Moravia, a province of Czech Republic. In 1727, Zeisberger moved with his family to the newly established Moravian community of Herrnhut, Germany, on the estate of Count Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf. He travelled to the American Colony of Georgia in 1738 and was soon instrumental in founding the community of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania in 1741.



Zeisberger's life was dedicated to bringing the Gospel to the First Nations of early America. He ministered to the Six Nations (Mohawk, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, Seneca and Tuscarora) in Pennsylvania and New York, whilst living amongst them in their bark huts and learning their native languages. Zeisberger was well regarded by the leaders of the Six Nations and was admitted into the Turtle Clan of the Onondaga.

Zeisberger spoke several native languages fluently and produced a number of literary works that are renowned for their accurate and detailed depiction of

the Native American lifestyle. These include biblical translations, hymns, and general educational materials, such as a dictionary of native languages. Zeisberger also wrote a book, "The History of the North American Indian" (1780) that was used by James Fenimore Cooper to depict Native American life in his famous novel "Last of the Mohicans" (1826).

During the 1760s, Zeisberger lived with the Lenape (Delaware) First Nations in Pennsylvania. As the colonial population grew and the need for more land arose, the Lenape were forced westward, reaching Ohio in 1772. Upon their arrival in Ohio, Zeisberger established the village of Schoenbrunn which he intended to be a refuge for the Lenape Christians as well as a location for further outreach efforts. With the help of his assistant, John Heckewelder, Zeisberger found many new converts in Ohio and they soon established two other Moravian villages at Gnadenuhnten and Lichtenau (Meadow of Light).



At these villages, the Lenape lived lives similar to those of Anglo settlers in the region - planting crops, serving as skilled craftspeople, attending school, and participating in religious services. The Moravians required the Lenape to abandon much of their traditional heritage. They could no longer engage in war or the ceremonies associated with it. New practices included monogamous marriage and the adoption of new Christian names and dress. Children were instructed in English and Christian beliefs, but were allowed to maintain their traditional language.

During the American Revolution, the Lenape villages founded by Zeisberger lay between the opposing interests, which had western frontier strongholds on either side: the rebel American colonists' military outpost at Fort Pitt (Pittsburgh) and the British with Indian allies around Fort Detroit. The pacifist Moravians and their converts hoped to remain neutral, yet both the English and the Americans refused to trust them. Zeisberger's followers also faced opposition from other Lenape who had retained their traditional belief system and were allies of the British. Facing harassment and fearful of their lives, Zeisberger and his followers abandoned Schoenbrunn in 1776 with most relocating to Lichtenau, near the Lenape main village.



Zeisberger then concentrated his efforts on Gnadenhutten, however, in 1781, British authorities ordered the Christian Lenape to abandon their current villages and relocate to "Captive Town" in northern Ohio. They arrived at their new village in the late fall, too late to plant crops. The Moravians and their Lenape followers faced serious shortages and starvation during the winter. Hoping to alleviate their suffering, Zeisberger sent a group back to Gnadenhutten to harvest whatever crops remained in the fields.

While in Gnadenhutten collecting food to bring back to Captive Town, the Christian Lenape were surprised by a raiding party of 160 Pennsylvania militia who mistakenly accused them of siding with the British and conducting raids in nearby Pennsylvania where several settlers had recently been murdered by non-Christian natives. The militiamen burned the 60 cabin village, captured the inhabitants, and then brutally murdered them while they knelt in prayer. Almost one third of the Gnadenhutten congregation was killed that day, 90 men women and children. This gruesome event is known as the Gnadenhutten or Moravian Massacre. The Moravians never rebuilt the village, but David Zeisberger continued his work with the Lenape people until his death in 1808 at the age of 87. One of his last missions was to settle some of the remaining Lenape in a village they called Moraviantown near Chatham, Ontario.

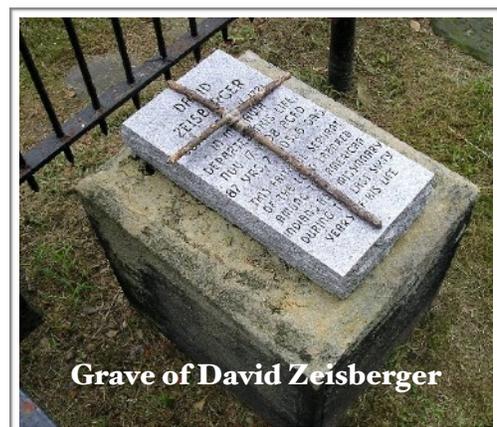


During our trip to Ohio, we were able to visit the grave of David Zeisberger in Goshen, and marvel at the accomplishments of this revered Moravian missionary. Pastor Darrell Johnson of the John Heckewelder Memorial Moravian Church gave us a tour of the original Moravian mission site in Gnadenuhnten with its monument and small museum. It was very sobering to visit the burial mound where Heckewelder had collected the remains of the Lenape martyrs several years after the massacre and buried them at the village site.

We were also fortunate to be given a tour of nearby Schoenbrunn Village. It was closed for the year but Rev. John Wallace, the pastor at First Moravian Church in Dover and a docent at the village, arranged a tour for us. Schoenbrunn Village is the site of several Ohio firsts, the first settlement, church, schoolhouse and code of laws. The village, restored to appear as it did more than two centuries ago, includes the original cemetery and 16 reconstructed log structures, as well as the church and gardens. The village flourished for five years and at its greatest had 400 Christian natives living in more than 60 buildings with as many as 100 students in the one-room schoolhouse, both boys and girls. In the school and church, the missionaries and native converts were divided into traditional Moravian choirs or groups of the same age, gender and marital status. Upon abandoning the village in 1777, the church was burned so it could not be used by non-Christians. The rest of the village was eventually burned by militiamen.



Schoenbrunn Village was forgotten for nearly 150 years, until in the 1920s, a Moravian minister, Joseph Weinland of Dover, began researching the lost village. Church records in Bethlehem, included plans by Zeisberger and his day-to-day journals, in which he detailed the life of the village. The Ohio Historical Society acquired the property in 1923 and started an archaeological dig. The village was reconstructed from 1927 to 1930 and continues to operate under the Historical Society. It was a privilege to visit and experience this important piece of Moravian History.

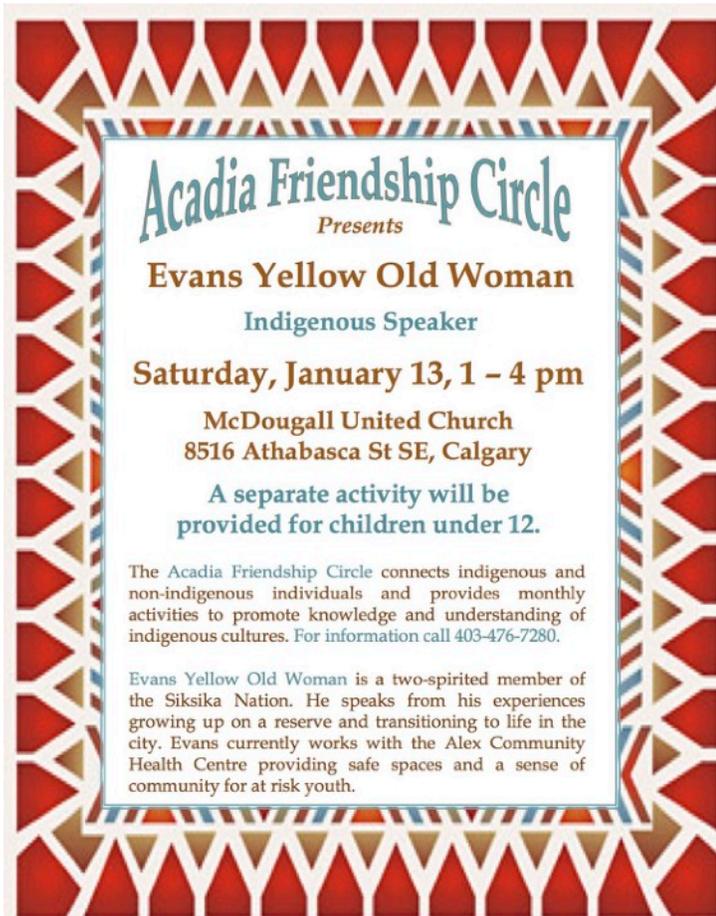


OUTREACH AND MISSION NEWS

The Watchword that was chosen for the Board of World Mission for 2018:

Deuteronomy 2:7: The Lord your God has blessed you in all your undertaking.

We give thanks for the many ways God continues to bless this important ministry and mission.



Acadia Friendship Circle
Presents
Evans Yellow Old Woman
Indigenous Speaker
Saturday, January 13, 1 - 4 pm
McDougall United Church
8516 Athabasca St SE, Calgary
A separate activity will be provided for children under 12.

The Acadia Friendship Circle connects indigenous and non-indigenous individuals and provides monthly activities to promote knowledge and understanding of indigenous cultures. For information call 403-476-7280.

Evans Yellow Old Woman is a two-spirited member of the Siksika Nation. He speaks from his experiences growing up on a reserve and transitioning to life in the city. Evans currently works with the Alex Community Health Centre providing safe spaces and a sense of community for at risk youth.



The Blanket Exercise:
Reconciliation through education

The Acadia Friendship Circle invites you to attend a KAIOS Blanket Exercise
Saturday, February 17, 1 - 4 pm
McDougall United Church
8516 Athabasca St SE, Calgary
A separate activity will be provided for children under 12.

The Blanket Exercise is an interactive learning experience teaching the indigenous history we were rarely taught. The goal of the Blanket Exercise is to build understanding about our shared history as indigenous and non-indigenous peoples in Canada by walking through pre-contact, treaty-making, colonization and the Indian Act. Education on Canadian indigenous history as one of the key steps to reconciliation.

For information call 403-476-7280

Thanks to generous giving at the two Christmas Eve services, Christ Church was able to donate to the Calgary Food Bank and the Acadia Friendship Circle.

The Acadia Friendship Circle came about from a request of the residents of Acadia Place, indigenous and non indigenous, to connect with others while learning traditional indigenous culture and exploring issues facing indigenous people. One third of the residents at Acadia Place are indigenous.

Interested members of Christ Church are encourage to support the activities of the Acadia Friendship Circle by attending their monthly events. Those of you who were not able to attend the Kairos Blanket Exercise held in October at Good Shepherd will have a second opportunity to do so in February when the Acadia Friendship Circle hosts a Blanket Exercise.

Please speak with Donna Gordon if you are interested in attending any of the Acadia Friendship Circle events.