

# 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

Pastoral Newsletter for the weekend of April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Sunday Worship Focus: " Good Shepherd Sunday "



*Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd, who lays down his life for the sheep."*

*John 10:11*

### *Dear Friends in Christ:*

The late April weather is treating us like a wild "rollercoaster" ride. We are going up, down, all around with sunshine, snow, cold frigid winds, and warm delightful days as well. The Sunday worship focus is a reminder of the nature of Jesus in being a "Good Shepherd" for the flock. If only this shepherd would guide the flock to the warm pastures of Hawaii, Costa Rica, or Jamaica.

The worship team has needed a bit of a post-Easter break, so you'll find that exemplified on Sunday's Good Shepherd Worship Video. May this time of faithful worship speak to your life as Jesus guides each life with the gentle crook to the flowing streams, lush pastures, and safe corrals.

We can certainly recognize the yearning and need for the shepherding of Jesus to guide our world into places of peace, justice, love, and wellness. It seems the events of this week speak to our condition as the trial in the death of George Floyd leads to a conviction, the skyrocketing case counts around our region, and the delicate balance of economics and climate issues become addressed. May the words of the Psalmist roll from our lips at our most fragile and broken times... "The Lord is my shepherd! I shall not want!"

CMC Executive Board and Elders have recently met and will continue to monitor the safety and health guidelines of the health authorities in our steps forward. Worship videos will remain available through the next several months, and as small gatherings become advisable the CMC leadership will communicate this change.

The worship team again invites your suggestions for favourite songs and hymns. We look forward to offering these joyful, meaningful songs in upcoming worship services.

Check the following page for additional information.

Pastor Steve Gohdes

### Upcoming Events

**"Bible Buddies"**  
**Sunday April 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**@ 9:00 am**

Zoom details are  
on the Events page

**April 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**District Dialogue**  
**Group meets**  
**Via Zoom**  
**@ 7:00 pm**



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](mailto:moravian@nucleus.com) or Phone the church office at 403-271-2700. Help us make a joyful sound unto the Lord!

### **75<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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. The website 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](mailto: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

### *The Good Shepherd*

John 10:11-18

### *Word Search Puzzle*

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

LISTEN	SHEEP	LOVES	WOLF	FLOCK
ATTACKS	CARES	PEN	GOOD	RUNS
SCATTERS	VOICE	SHEPHERD	LIFE	KNOW

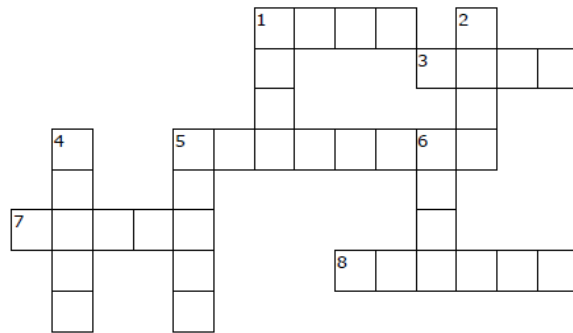


**The Good Shepherd**

Christ Moravian Church  
600 Acadia Drive SE Calgary, AB T2J 0B8

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# Maze Puzzle Crossword Puzzle



## ACROSS

1. The period from birth to death
3. A wild animal that look like a dog and hunts in a pack
5. One who takes care of the sheep
7. What we use to speak
8. To hear or pay attention to something

## DOWN

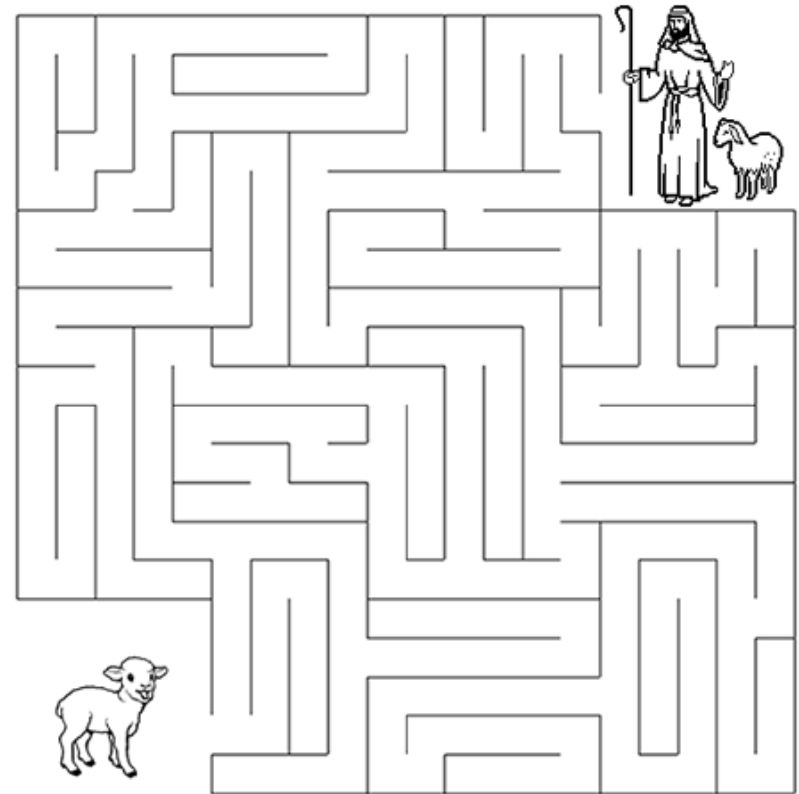
1. A strong feeling of affection
2. The opposite of bad
4. A group of sheep herded together
5. Wooly animals which are similar to goats
6. Goes faster than walking

SHEPHERD	GOOD	LIFE	SHEEP	WOLF
FLOCK	RUNS	VOICE	LISTEN	LOVE



## The Good Shepherd

Help the sheep find his way to the shepherd.



"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep  
and my sheep know me."  
John 10:14 (NIV)

## Focus on John 10:11–18

### WHAT is important to know?

— From “Exegetical Perspective,” Sarah S. Henrich

As described here, this model shepherd has a task that may surprise the flock as it defines itself. Jesus declares that he (and the Father who directs his work, as in John 8:28; 10:18) has “other” sheep who will recognize him as their leader. The task of gathering the sheep requires that Jesus know them, for they may be hidden, scattered, “other” than humans have anticipated. Jesus’ death enables him to return to the Father and send the Spirit that will continue and extend this task of shepherding God’s people (John 7:39).

### WHERE is God in these words?

— From “Theological Perspective,” Stephen A. Cooper

The issue of the oneness of believers arises from Jesus’ saying here about the “other sheep that do not belong to this fold” (v. 16). Although in its original setting this verse probably referred to “the calling of the Gentiles”—as Calvin observed—our present, twenty-first-century context requires that we expand this image. The “other sheep” of today must be determined by the setting in which the word is preached and heard. Who are “other” for us? This line of questioning brings the affluent churches of the developed world into discomforting reflections on the “other” in our midst. The key point is that these “others” are Christ’s sheep, just as we are, and they too recognize his voice.

### SO WHAT does this mean for our lives?— From “Pastoral Perspective,” Nancy R. Blakely

Sometimes we go astray, just like sheep. Sheep that are ill may follow the voice of a stranger. Sheep wander off and fall into ravines. There are many voices out there vying for our attention. Many distractions lure us from the path. Jesus promises that he will never let us go. His voice will bring us back. We belong to him. This is a strong word of reassurance to us in our struggles to be faithful. In our choices each day as we practice our faith by saying yes to some voices and saying no to others, Jesus is there, going before us and leading us.

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

— From “Homiletical Perspective,”  
Barbara J. Essex

The good shepherd does not merely care for the sheep, but also gathers the flock. Those who see, hear, and believe in Jesus belong to the community; thus, the door is wide open to the outcasts of the day—sinners, lepers, women, Samaritans, tax collectors, and more. Jesus is concerned for the individual welfare of each sheep (knows each by name) *and* for the communal destiny of the flock (gathers into the fold)! Our emptiness and anxiety can be relieved, because we have one who knows us and cares for us, is willing to die for us, and is our constant companion—the Good Shepherd.

## Shepherds and Sheep

A shepherd's task: to feed the sheep adequately, care for their ailments, keep them gathered together, and put their well-being first.



The life of a shepherd was anything but picturesque. It was dangerous, risky, and menial. Shepherds were rough around the edges, spending time in fields rather than in polite society. For Jesus to say, “I am the good shepherd,” would have been an affront to the religious elite and educated. The claim had an edge to it. A modern-day equivalent might be for Jesus to say, “I am the good migrant worker.”

In addition to unpacking the image of shepherd, consider the tricky issue of being called a sheep. In her sermon, “The Voice of the Shepherd,” Barbara Brown Taylor tells of an acquaintance who had actually grown up on a sheep ranch and could dispel the myth that sheep are dumb. Cows are herded from the rear with shouts and prods from the cowboys. But that does not work with sheep. If you stand behind sheep making noises, they will just run around behind you. They actually prefer to be led. Cows can be pushed; sheep must be led. Sheep will not go anywhere that someone else—their trusted shepherd—does not go first, to show them everything is all right. “Sheep seem to consider their shepherd part of the family, and the relationship that grows up between the two is quite exclusive. They develop a language of their own that outsiders are not privy to.”

The shepherd's voice is key. As Jesus says in the passage, “I know my own and my own know me.” (v. 14).<sup>1</sup>

—Excerpted from “Pastoral Perspective,” by Nancy R. Blakely, *Feasting on the Word, Year B, Volume 2* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008), 451–452.

1. Barbara Brown Taylor, quoted by William H. Willimon, *Pulpit Resources*, vol. 29, no. 2 (Inver Grove Heights, MN: Logos Productions, 2001), 30.