

Christ Moravian Church

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 Daily Text Watchword for the Week

Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger.

James 1:19



Sunday August 29th Outdoor Worship on the Lawn!

Bring a lawn chair, please continue to practice physical distancing measures.

The Exodus of 2021

Exodus 13:21 reads: "The Lord went in front of them in a pillar of cloud by day, to lead them along the way, and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light, so that they might travel both by day and by night."

My Oh My, how I yearn to see a pillar of cloud or a pillar of fire leading us today. I believe we are experiencing an "exodus" of some kind. The Israelites were departing the bondage of the Egyptians unto the promised land given by Yahweh. We are navigating through a different journey from a bondage of the enduring Covid 19 pandemic seeking the promised land of tomorrow. The symbols of "cloud and fire" are far less prolific for us to see and observe, yet we will rely on the same faithful presence of God to guide us as the God of the Israelites long ago.

Our faithful understanding of God reminds us to "fear not", setting aside those debilitating and paralyzing fears in order to continue to move into tomorrow ready to live the "new thing" God will reveal. As these next days, weeks, and months unfold, may the dreams and visions of God's people guide us to know the land of milk and honey of 2021 and beyond.

Let's keep moving along the exodus journey of 2021, knowing God's presence.
Blessings, Pastor Gohdes

Sunday Worship:

September 5, 10:30am Worship in the Sanctuary, with masks, physical distance requirements and limited to 40 participants. Please register by phone or email. The Service will be video-taped and released online.

Sunday Volunteers Needed!

Sunday assistance needed as worship services begin. Let the church office know if you are willing to assist.

Greeter-Welcome Team: volunteers to assist welcoming, seating, assisting the service.

Audio System Team: We will train you to assist with the Audio Support Team.

Video System Team: Volunteers will be trained to assist the video taping of the service.

PowerPoint Team: Volunteers to cue the power point presentation will be trained.

CMC Welcomes Pastoral Partnership with Rev. Matt Gillard

Christ Moravian Church welcomes Rev. Matt Gillard into a Pastoral Partnership with Pastor Gohdes and the congregation. Matt has recently transitioned from the ministry of Good Shepherd Church, and CMC welcomes his specialized involvement into various areas of worship and ministry for the upcoming months. We welcome Matt's partnership and are grateful for the gifts he'll bring to CMC and the Canadian District.

Upcoming Events

"Bible Buddies" meet on Sunday, August 29th at 9:00 am

Zoom details for this Bible Study Class are on the Events page of your e-mail

Sunday September 5th Worship in the Sanctuary at 10:30 am



Volunteers Wanted

Are you able to help us to make beeswax candles for Christmas?

We have an order to make candles for the Moravian Churches in Labrador as well as the candles for the Moravian Churches in Alberta. We will be making them over the long weekend in September - 3, 4, 5 (pm only) and 6 (if necessary) in our church basement and would appreciate your help on any of those days.

Could you offer any of your time for any of those days – morning, afternoon or both?

(We will not make them Sunday Morning as we expect there to be a church Service that day)

Please let Pat Wollf know when you are available, at Wollf@telusplanet.net, or call me at 403-819-5083.

Fall Youth and Sunday School Activities:

The CMC Sunday School leadership and Youth Leadership are looking at plans for safe and meaningful activities for the fall. Watch the weekly letter or announcements for further info as it becomes available.

CMC One Day Garage Sale Sept. 11, 10am-2pm

Plans are taking shape for a "One Day Garage Sale" at the CMC Parking Lot. If you have items to donate, bring them on Sept. 11 ready for sale...sorted, boxed, easily assembled. The tables and displays will be set up early on Sept. 11, and volunteers will be needed. Call Marilyn Gurnsey (403-720-9704) for info or to volunteer.

Building Relationships with Our Indigenous Neighbours:

In the spirit of Reconciliation, you are invited to attend a celebration of Friendship and Culture with citizens of the Tsuut'ina Nation, August 27 - 29th on the field at Andrew Sibbald School in Lake Bonavista. This is an opportunity to develop relationships between our communities, learn about the history of this territory, and celebrate the strength, resiliency, and beauty of the Tsuut'ina people and culture. See attachment for details.

Moravian Disaster Response to Earthquake Victims in Haiti:

Once again the country and people of Haiti have been hit with a devastating earthquake followed by a tropical storm. This has had a direct impact on Moravian Congregations in Haiti, many of whom fled to the countryside following the catastrophic earthquake that destroyed much of Port-au-Prince in 2010. Please see the Moravian Board of World Mission attachment for more information and instructions on how you can help.

Statement on Vaccinations at CMC

Christ Moravian Church will not close its doors to those who have not been vaccinated for COVID-19; however, the Church Executive Board and Elders strongly encourage everyone to get vaccinated.

Medical professionals have assured us that research shows vaccinations are safe and the most effective way to protect yourself from serious illness. Unvaccinated people make up the greatest number of patients hospitalized with COVID-19.

Having as many people immunized as possible is the best way to protect those who have been vaccinated as well as the children who are not eligible for vaccination. This is also the best way to help prevent the emergence of new variants that may be resistant to vaccines.

If you have not already done so, please consider vaccination as a way to protect yourself, others you care about and society as a whole.

Weekly Reminders...

- Please know that you may call the church office for any needs that may arise. Feel free to phone (403-271-2700) to speak with us or leave a message. Another option is that you may contact the church office by e-mail at moravian@nucleus.com [this is monitored daily] with any questions or communication.
- If you require assistance in getting to your COVID-19 vaccine appointment, please call the office.
- Indranie Perera continues to receive recycling for support of Sri Lanka. She wishes to express sincere thanks to all who contribute to this worthwhile cause.

In All Things Love...

Risk Mitigation Precautions

Modified Opening: August 22, 29 and September 5 at 10:30am

- Attendance will be limited to 40 individuals, including the pastor and elder.
- Attendees will be asked to conduct a self-screening a maximum of two hours before attending. (See attached document: COVID 19 Alberta Health Daily Checklist)
- Ushers will seat attendees so that each cohort group is distanced from others.
- Preregistration will be required for each of these Sundays, by phone or email to the church office. Registration for each Sunday will be accepted no sooner than the preceding Sunday.
- Registrations will be accepted in the order they are received with a waitlist to be kept for the next service, if required.
- Attendees will be required to wear masks inside the building. Disposable masks will be placed at the entrance for those who forget to bring their own.
- Attendees will be required to enter through the front door. Only those using canes and walkers should enter through the east door.
- If there is a line up, attendees are asked to maintain a 2 metre distance from other cohort groups.
- Once in the building, attendees will use hand sanitizer and check in with the greeters.
- Ushers will direct attendees to seats and monitor the number of people in each section.
- Visiting and lingering inside the building before and after the service will not be allowed. Coffee will not be served.
- Attendees wishing to share a time of fellowship may gather outside, with a recommendation that masks and distancing continue.
- High level of cleaning and sanitization, particularly for high touch surfaces and common areas such as washrooms will remain in place.
- Attendees are strongly encouraged to be familiarize themselves with proper hand sanitation and respiratory etiquette as indicated on signs in the building.
- Soft congregational singing and choral reading of prayers and liturgies may take place with masks on. Clergy, readers and soloists may remove masks provided there is at least three metres distance between themselves and others.

Children's Worship Bulletin

Coloring Page

Clean or Unclean?

Mark 7:1-8; 14-15; 21-23

Word Search Puzzle

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

HEARTS	FOOD	HONOR	HYPOCRITES	WORSHIP
TEACHERS	RULES	EATING	PHARISEES	WASH
DISCIPLES	UNCLEAN	HANDS	LAW	LIPS



"These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me."

Mark 7:6

Decoder Puzzle

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the words.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

16-8-1-18-9-19-5-5-19 _____

20-5-1-3-8-5-18-19 _____

12-1-23 _____

4-9-19-3-9-16-12-5-19 _____

5-1-20-9-14-7 _____

6-15-15-4 _____

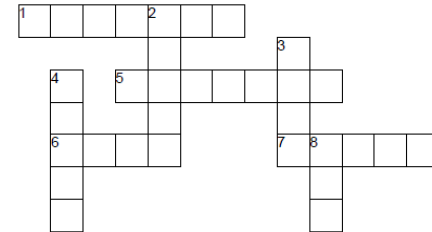
8-1-14-4-19 _____

21-14-3-12-5-1-14 _____

PHARISEES	TEACHERS	LAW	DISCIPLES
EATING	FOOD	HANDS	UNCLEAN



Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- To express love and adoration toward God
- Something that is dirty or soiled
- The two edges of flesh around the mouth
- The center of your emotion, I love you with all my _____.

DOWN

- The body part at the end of the arms that includes the fingers
- To make something clean using soap and water
- The accepted way that things should be done
- To take food into the mouth, chew it, and swallow

LIPS	EAT	WASH	UNCLEAN
HEART	WORSHIP	HANDS	RULES



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Focus on James 1:17–27

WHAT is important to know?

— From “Exegetical Perspective,” Aaron L. Uitti

For a covenant community, which is not immune to heated disputes, James urges his readers to be quick to listen, slow to speak. James undoubtedly sat through assemblies where contention fractured the community. He observed that human anger will not produce results that make things right. James is intense, using acid rhetoric: “rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness,” he admonishes (v. 21). On the other hand, he says, listening and being listened to open the door to the righteousness of God for the community.

WHERE is God in these words?

— From “Theological Perspective,” Haruko Nawata Ward

In Greek philosophy, every being has its origin in the highest Being. This Being is also named the Source, Life, Light, Good, Truth, and Idea. Each being is placed in the hierarchy of beings, as on a ladder. Each receives energy from the Source above. If the being is closer to the top of the ladder, it receives and reflects brighter light; if the being ranks toward the bottom, it receives lesser light and stays shadowy. Calling the Christian God “Father of lights” (v. 17), the writer of James shows that every life-giving gift to Christians also comes from their Source. However, by stating “there is no variation or shadow due to change,” the writer departs from Greek cosmology. In the Christian universe, every Christian receives this gift equally and not according to his or her rank in the hierarchy. The supreme gift that Christians receive is “birth by the word of truth” (v. 18).

SO WHAT does this mean for our lives?

— From “Pastoral Perspective,” by
Archie Smith Jr.

James calls us to be responsible, taking seriously our emotional lives, our religious faith, and our behavior. We can envision ourselves as early signs of God’s new creation. We can begin by embracing the whole of ourselves and taking responsibility for our constructive and destructive potentials. Living this way can increase our critical discernment. It can foster the development of persons and communities. Such living, when joined by the faithfulness of many others, can become a strong current that helps to transform the world.

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

— From “Homiletical Perspective,”
Peter Rhea Jones

The reference to new birth signals a critical intention of a purposive God. One may draw this out in terms of a theology and ethic of divine giving (John 3:16), giving being at the heart of the universe. Generosity grounded in the character of God and embodied in the mission of Jesus can unfold as an influential model of the Divine. To be generous is consonant with the nature of God. God comes through as reliable as well (v. 17c), even from a cosmic perspective.

Do-Worders

You've probably heard the expression "do-gooder." Though it has come to take on a pejorative meaning, take a closer look at what that expression literally means: doing good.

The epistle of James has its own variation on do-gooder: "be doers of the word, and not hearers only." In other words, be a "do-worder." Don't just hear the word on Sunday, or through the week in devotional encounters. James calls upon individuals and communities of faith to be "do-worders," folks who put into practice the words of our faith.

Take a look at the following familiar "words" that come to us in Scripture. In the space below each, write down ways that word is practiced—or might be done in new ways—in your life and by your congregation.

Owe no one anything, except to love one another. (Romans 13:8)

So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. (Matthew 6:34)

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (Romans 12:21)

But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. (Mark 10:43–44)

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. (2 Corinthians 5:16)

*"The doers of the word,
and not hearers only."*

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN THE FEAST!

We will be continuing a Bible Study using **Feasting on the Word** curriculum this fall which is based on the critically acclaimed Feasting on the Word Commentary series edited by David L. Bartlett and Barbara Brown Taylor, a leading contemporary biblical commentator and scholar. Each week's lesson is coordinated with the lectionary readings for that particular Sunday. There are handouts and questions for each week.

Beginning in September, as person worship has started, we hope to meet in person at the church at 8:30-10:00 AM on the first and third Sunday of the month and virtually on the second and 4th Tuesday from 5:30 -7:00 PM with an optional extra 30' on Tuesdays.

Each study poses four questions about the text we will be focusing on.

What?

What are the important things to know about the contexts, language, and settings of the biblical passage?

Where?

Where is God in this passage? Where are God's will and activities being expressed?

So What?

What does this passage mean to me? What does it mean for my relationship with God and other people?

Now What?

This prompts us to reflect on how our life and the church's life can live out what the passage is saying.

These details will be included in the weekly mail out or for more information contact the office moravian@nucleus.com

Hope you can join us!

Moravian Disaster Response to Earthquake Victims in Haiti



On August 14, a devastating 7.2 magnitude earthquake hit southwestern Haiti. At present, the death toll is over 1,400 persons with over 5,000 injured. To make matters worse, tropical storm Grace passed over this same area on Tuesday, August 17, with winds and heavy rain causing flooding and mudslides, which has only slowed the emergency response. These events come on top of the crushing poverty, political unrest, and gang violence that have plagued the country for many years.

Haiti is a Mission Area of the Moravian Church with a dozen congregations and is jointly supervised by the Eastern West Indies and Jamaica Provinces.

We have heard from Haitian-Moravian Pastor Vilès Dorsainvil, and he gives us the following account:

“There are 2 Moravian churches that were affected by the earthquake. One is in Jacmel, and the other one is Anse de Nau in the Grand Anse Department. These churches are damaged, and the brothers and sisters from those churches are now in the street looking for shelter. The worst part of this scenario is that hurricane Grace is heading in the same direction. This is a dire situation for the folks in this part of the Island.”

The BMW is currently seeking to wire funds to our brothers and sisters in Haiti to help them purchase emergency supplies.

You can help to support all Moravian disaster relief efforts by sending your donations to:

Moravian Church in Canada,
600 Acadia Drive SE, Calgary, AB T2J 0B8.

Mark donations, “MDR” for Moravian Disaster Response.

Interac e-Transfer donations may be sent to treasurer@moravian.ca. In the comments section, please mark your donation as “MDR” (Moravian Disaster Response) and include your name and address to receive a tax receipt.



Van Es News - August 2021

Welcome to the new Van Es E-newsletter that will be sent out monthly or to announce special events. You are receiving this as a friend of or client of Van Es Camp & Conference Centre. Should you choose not to receive these, feel free to opt out at the bottom of the email. If you know of anyone who would enjoy receiving our emails, please pass them along.

Summer Camps Resumed

Summer camps resumed after a 2020 hiatus due to COVID. This year's theme was JOY, to experience it after the past year of restrictions, isolation and sadness. An Elementary aged day camp was held July 12-16 and a Jr/Sr High overnight camp commenced the following week.

Special thanks to Marilyn Gurnsey, 20 plus year camp director veteran for directing the Elementary Camp and to Rev James Lavoy, Van Es Executive Camp Director and Rev Aaron Linville for directing the Jr/Sr High Camp.



The Elementary Camp hosted 9 day campers. Although they were a small group, they were full of energy and joyful. On Wednesday Van Es hosted a family BBQ as many of the parents were not familiar with Van Es or the Moravian Church. Most were surprised to learn what a beautiful facility existed so close to Edmonton. Thursday the campers were invited for an overnight stay to introduce them to sleepover camp. Friday, they all departed and many were talking about returning next year.

28 campers attended Jr/Sr High Camp. Jr and Sr High's had separate sleeping and program spaces but shared

meals and vespers together.

All campers were well fed thanks to the volunteer kitchen crew, Lynne Hennig, Britt Wudel, Marilyn Gurnsey and Andrew Kerslake.

Thank you to all the volunteers, our grant from the Larger Life Foundation and District assessments that help keep our camps affordable and accessible for all.



Van Es 80th Anniversary Celebration

Labour Day Weekend - September 3 to 6

Mark your calendars for a celebration of 80 years of Van Es. You are invited to stay the weekend in a room in Unity, a cabin, an RV spot or drop in for an event or a day.

Saturday, September 4 will be focused on the community and feature the following:

- swimming
- quilt show
- historical displays
- music throughout the day
- introductory Spiritual Direction sessions offered by Rev. Rick Beck
- a BBQ
- evening concert with **Amy Bishop**, award winning rock, blues and Christian performer.

Sunday will have a church focus with:

- early afternoon worship
- concert
- 80th Anniversary dinner

Food packages will be available for the weekend. Pricing is being finalized and sign ups will be available soon.

Volunteers as well as participants are needed. For more information, contact Lynne Hennig (lynne@tuscanysystems.com) or Randy Downing (van-escamp@shaw.ca).

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