

Christ Moravian Church

Congregational Newsletter for Sunday December 19th, 2021
& Christmas 2021

Christ Church Watchword for the Year 2021 **Psalm 42:1**

"As the deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God."

Moravian Daily Text Watchword for the Week: **Luke 1:52**

God has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly.



***The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
Those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.
Isaiah 9:2***

The Prophet's Words in 2021

Twenty-one months of darkness;

Darkness even during long springtime and summer days.

Darkness often so deep it seemed the sun may never shine again
upon people cautious at home, cautious outside, cautious in worry and isolation.

Family and friends and kin and strangers all walking beyond arms length.

People walking in a COVID 19 darkness;

*On them, on us all, on the creation the **light** has shined.*

Light mirrored in the love we can offer in such a strange time.

*Warmth, brilliance, vision, faith found as this light shines
in a new way, in a new time, to a new people!*

We are guided in this time of shadows,

And we are loved in this time of pure grace.

The star shines, the angel announces peace,

Unto all, a child is born, unto us a Son is given

And a child, the Christ, will lead us forward.

Christmas Blessings to All!

Pastor Steve Gohdes

Upcoming Events

**Sunday
December 19th:**
"Bible Buddies"
meet at 8:30 am
via Zoom

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

**Watch for
"Some Good News"
During Advent....**

Monday Dec. 20th:
**Final day for
Mustard Seed
drop off ~
noon deadline.**

For more information, visit our website @
www.christmoravian.com

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Friends in Christ;

Christmas is fast approaching, and our plans to celebrate Christ's birth as family, as friends, as neighbors are taking shape. We know of the caution we all carry, and we all yearn for a more simple time. Christmas Eve Worship services will be limited and small, and with the Omicron variant of COVID now in our midst, we are called to be ever careful in our steps these next weeks.

We are grateful for the ability to share a beautiful Christmas Eve Worship video that editor, Steve Blackwell will make available for Christmas Eve. Thanks to the many that took part in sharing this Moravian Candlelight Service videotaped last Friday evening on December 10th. Those who will worship at home will experience the beauty and blessing of a Christmas Eve Service from Christ Moravian Church. If you are worshipping at home, please pick up your Moravian Beeswax Candles at the church this week, and be careful "not to get wax on your slacks, or make messes of your dresses" during the candlelight moment.

We want to announce that the registration for the 7pm "In Person" Christmas Eve Service is **full**. There is some space available for the 9pm "In Person" Christmas Eve Service. Please contact the church to register for that service.

There will be no "In Person" Worship on December 26th, Boxing Day, however the Christmas Eve Worship Video from 2020 will be made available with which to worship.

On January 2nd, 2022, we plan on resuming "In Person" Worship that will be videotaped and shared through our network. Watch for plans that will lead us as a congregation into the New Year of 2022.

Christmas Blessings,
Pastor Steve Gohdes

Worshippers in-person are welcomed

Mandatory Restrictions for Places of Worship:

Capacity limited to 1/3 fire code occupancy.
Masks are mandatory.

2 meters physical distancing between households, or 2 close contacts for those living alone.

Christmas Candle & Envelope Distribution:

Recognizing many will experience the Christmas Eve service online this year, you're invited to pick up your Moravian Beeswax Candle at the church. They're available for pick up at the church between 9:00 am and noon until December 20th. As well, Envelope Steward Ken Schultz has your 2022 envelopes ready for pick up.

2021 Offerings and Tax Receipts ~ A note from our Envelope Steward:

To ensure that your donation will be "received" and credited to 2021, we suggest that it be mailed on or before December 27th. It can be mailed earlier with a cheque dated for a day on or before December 31st, 2021.

If donations are made by Interac, they must be done before December 31st 12:00 PM midnight. The documents we receive give the time of the donation down to the exact minute they are processed.

Christmas Giving Opportunities: Mustard Seed; Ahuas Advent Calendar; Cash Donations: When making cash gifts, indicate which organization you would like to support: Ahuas Clinic; Mustard Seed; Calgary Food Bank.

Weekly Reminders...

- Please know that you may contact the church office for any needs that may arise. Feel free to phone (403-271-2700) to speak with us or leave a message or contact the church office by e-mail at moravian@nucleus.com.
- If you require assistance in getting to an Influenza or COVID-19 vaccine appointment, please call the office.
- Cash and food donations for the Acadia Food Pantry are most appreciated. Food items may be dropped off at the church and placed in the blue bin by the side door. Contact Donna Gordon if you would like to volunteer.
- 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.

2 *In All Things Love...*

Children's Worship Bulletin

The Gift of Love

Luke 1:39-45

Word Search

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

ELIZABETH	FULFILL	FILLED	GREETING	BELIEVE
BLESSED	CHILD	PROMISE	LEAPED	JUDEA
ZECHARIAH	JOY	BABY	HOME	MARY

Christ Moravian Church
Calgary, Alberta

Decoder Puzzle

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

- 5-12-9-26-1-2-5-20-8 _____
- 13-1-18-25 _____
- 12-5-1-16-5-4 _____
- 2-1-2-25 _____
- 2-12-5-19-19-5-4 _____
- 16-18-15-13-9-19-5-19 _____
- 10-15-25 _____
- 13-15-20-8-5-18 _____
- 23-15-13-5-14 _____
- 6-21-12-6-9-12-12 _____

ELIZABETH PROMISES	MARY JOY	LEAPED MOTHER	BABY WOMEN	BLESSED FULFILL
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Mary Visits Elizabeth

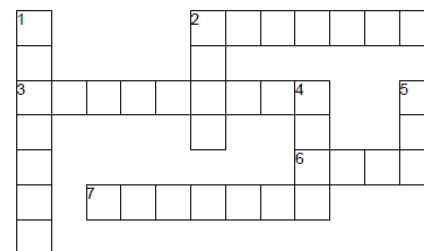
Coloring Page



Thank you, God, for Jesus.

From Thru-the-Bible Coloring Pages for Ages 4-8. © 1986,1988 Standard Publishing.
Used by permission. Reproducible Coloring Books may be purchased from
Standard Publishing, www.standardpub.com, 1-800-543-1301.

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

2. To accept as true
3. The mother of John the Baptist
6. The mother of Jesus
7. To agree to do something for someone in the future

DOWN

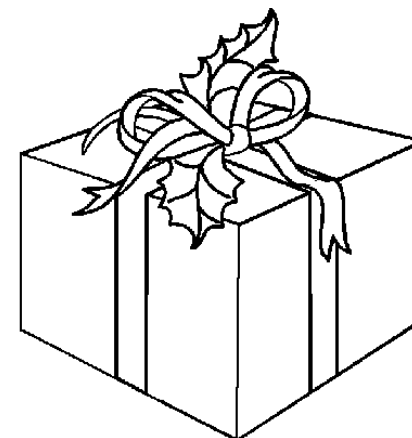
1. Highly favored by God
2. An infant; a young child
4. The place where a person lives
5. The feeling of great happiness

ELIZABETH
JOY

PROMISE
MARY

BLESSED
HOME

BELIEVE
BABY



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Focus on Micah 5:2–5a

WHAT is important to know?

— From “Exegetical Perspective,” Neal Walls

The one who “shall come forth” (*yêšê*) (v. 2b) is identified by the same verb that describes the appearance of a Davidic messiah in Isaiah 11:1: “A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse.” The related Hebrew word translated “whose origin” (v. 2c) does not appear elsewhere in the Bible (cf. Ps. 19:6), but it refers to the dynasty founded by David. The phrases “of old” and “from ancient days” also describe the ancient lineage of the great eleventh-century king of Israel.

WHERE is God in these words?

— From “Theological Perspective,” Stephen B. Boyd

According to Micah, this ruler will bring peace not with a sword, which might suggest that the ruler brings peace with arbitration, diplomacy, and service. He will feed his flock in the strength of the Lord. It is, evidently, a strength of a different sort than many in his day imagined. It is a strength that shows itself in service. It is a notion of power or strength that corresponds to that of Jesus. When he was asked by his disciples to allow them to sit at his right hand—the place of power or strength—Jesus responded, “But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant” (Mark 10:42–43).

SO WHAT does this mean for our lives?

— From “Pastoral Perspective,” Nancy S. Taylor

Micah inspires us to look for God’s activity in people and places that are off the map, in the Bethlehems and the stables of our world and lives. We are invited to follow the prophet’s gaze and so turn our full attention to God. It is the pastor’s joy and responsibility to be ever vigilant as to where God is acting and to keep an ear cocked for those through whom God is speaking. More often than not, God is in the nooks and crannies, the alleys and kitchens. Advent’s call then is a call to eyes, ears, and hearts that are trained to expect the unexpected and to listen for the least likely voices.

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

— From “Theological Perspective,”
Stephen B. Boyd

Micah is convinced that, once again, YHWH will act on behalf of those who are unjustly subjugated, exploited, and demoralized—even if the perpetrators are the royal successors of David. He believed, with Dr. King, that “the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice.” Micah’s people saw so much greed and deception in high places. Could they believe with him that “the arc of the moral universe bends toward justice”? Could they believe that “the one of peace,” whose only weapon is gentleness, would win for them security and safety, when they experienced so much violence around them? Could they believe that someone from little, out-of-the-way Bethlehem would be “great to the ends of the earth”? Can we?

Job Description: Shepherd

Position Summary:

To provide care for the flock, ensuring their health and welfare. To seek out and make available sources of nutritious food and clean water. To protect against attack by wild beasts, and to guard against the injury or loss of individual sheep, particularly the young lambs and other vulnerable members of the flock.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

- to go ahead of the flock to ensure safe passage;
- to provide food (grazing in green pastures near the village in the spring; fresh growth, dried blades, leftover ears of grain following harvest and gleaning; standing hay in hot weather; stored food in late autumn or winter);
- to search out fresh sources of running water;
- to provide personal attention for individual sheep or lambs (treat scratched or sunburned skin with olive oil);
- to locate and bring back strays;
- to gather scattered sheep;
- to protect and defend against wild animals.

Required Knowledge and Skills:

- ability to place the needs of the sheep ahead of one's own;
- skill in leading sheep;
- ability to locate food and water;
- ability to identify individual sheep and their needs;
- skill in calling sheep back together;
- physical strength and courage.

