

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

Moravian Watchword for the Week: February 21st, 2021

*"Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs
sinners in the way"*
Psalm 25:8



Pastoral Newsletter for the weekend of February 21st, 2021

Sunday Worship Theme: Lent 1 - "Discoveries in the Wilderness"

Greetings Friends in Christ:

The season of Lent has begun with the reminder of our humble relationship with God as symbolized in the Ash Wednesday time of devotion. With humble regard for God's grace, we enter these next six weeks with an invitation to be in prayer, with a reminder of the place of fasting and sacrificial actions, and with the call toward generous living with others who are in need. Those ashes that are rubbed onto foreheads are that symbolic reference to life experienced with God's unwavering grace.

Please take a moment to check out these announcements for CMC life.

1) I want to remind CMC members that we will gather for the yearly Church Council meeting that will focus on the financial circumstances of the church. Members are invited to join in this virtual Church Council meeting on Sunday February 21st, 2021 at 12:30 pm.

The Agenda and the Zoom link will be attached to this e-mail. Financial details to be available at the Church Council meeting.

Upcoming Events

Sun. Feb. 21st:

CMC Church Council Meeting via Zoom. Documentation for the meeting has been sent out in e-mails to the congregation.

Feb. 25th – Apr. 1st:

Lenten Prayer Retreat with Rev. Rick Beck

For more information, visit our website @

www.christmoravian.com

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2) Check out this announcement from the Elders for a special Zoom fellowship event!

Christ Moravian Church is coming up to a year of not being able to worship in-person together as a congregation. We have tried to stay connected through phone calls, cards, Zoom meetings and the shared experience of viewing video services produced by our amazing worship team. With a year of the pandemic behind us and the possibility of another six months or more until we are able to fully worship together, the CMC elders would like to gather groups of folks over Zoom for a time of fellowship and reflection on how God has been present with you over this past year.

Four evenings, March 1, 2, 10 and 15 at 7pm, have been scheduled for folks to meet in Shepherd Groups. Each evening will be hosted by Pastor Steve and one of the CMC elders. You have been assigned to one of these times, but if you are unable to attend on that date, an alternate date can be arranged.

You will receive an email invitation to this event through the new CMC Realm software. We ask that you respond to this invitation by stating whether or not you plan to attend. If the date does not work for you, please email Donna Gordon to arrange a different date.

3) Attached is information for a Canadian District Dialogue in preparation for a virtual Synod in May. Check out that info to get engaged and involved.

4) Several CMC folks have been involved in the support of a refugee family from Angola, The Branco Family. The mother, Luisandra, has been cleared with a work visa and is seeking employment. See the attachment for information to assist her with this.

5) Charitable Tax Receipts

CMC Envelope Steward, Ken Schultz will be distributing the 2020 charitable tax receipts, and expects they will be in the mail no later than February 22nd. Please check your receipt and if you have any questions contact Ken at 403-281-4339. We extend our gracious thanks to all for the generous donations through a challenging year!

6) Check out other information for CMC life, including Bible Study information, Children's Activities, and Worship & Event Links.

Pastor Steve Gohdes

Weekly Reminders...

- Please know that Pastor Gohdes continues to be available for any needs that may arise. We are maintaining varied office hours, so please 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 with questions or communication.
- Indranie Perera continues to receive recycling for support of Sri Lanka.
- Donations are still being collected for the Acadia Food Pantry. If you are able to assist, or perhaps volunteer some time, please contact Donna Gordon for details.

In All Things Love...

Worship & Event Links ~ February 21st, 2021

CHURCH COUNCIL: Sunday, February 21, 2021, 12:30 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85325948482?pwd=cXJJeEdTT054VkZxVDUrbFF4ZmFyQT09>

Meeting ID: 853 2594 8482

Passcode: 845150

Dial by your location

587-328-1099

Meeting ID: 853 2594 8482

Passcode: 845150

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kQurMrJP8>

CMC Bible Buddies: 9 AM, Sunday, February 21st – *Jesus' Ministry Begins – Mark 1:9-15*

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89356581732?pwd=SXNWZGNka240UHQ1aTVpOE9LNDdyZz09>

Meeting ID: 893 5658 1732

Passcode: 955392

One tap mobile

+12042727920,,89356581732# Canada

+14388097799,,89356581732# Canada

One of our church refugees needs a job! Day work part-time 2 days a week or up to full time evenings or nights. Cleaning, stocking shelves, caring for the elderly or for children, etc. Rapidly developing English skills. Capable, reliable, intelligent and personable. Has work permit and SIN card. References available. CONTACT Luisandra: isawhite@hotmail.com, 514-214-8602. Available from March 1.

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

Christ Moravian Church

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING via Zoom A/V Conference

Sunday, February 21st, 2021

AGENDA

1. Declaration of a Quorum
2. Opening Words and Devotions
3. Intro to Zoom Protocols
4. Acceptance of Past Minutes
 - a. Church Council Meeting of February 9th, 2020
5. Approval of Church Financial Statements for year ending 2020 including:
 - Approval of Operating Account Report for year ending 2020
 - Approval of Reserve Fund Report for year ending 2020
 - Approval of Memorial Fund Report for year ending 2020
 - Approval of Mission Fund Report for year ending 2020
 - Approval of Parsonage Fund Report for year ending 2020
 - Approval of Women's Fellowship Financial Statement for year ending 2020
6. Approval of the Operating Budget and Reserve Fund Budget for year 2021
7. Executive Board Update
8. Adjournment



Christ Moravian Church

Canadian District Pre-Synod District Dialogue Groups

February 19, 2020

A Special Synod of the Canadian District is coming up on May 19 and 20, 2021. Three pre-synod meetings in the form of District Dialogue Groups will be held in the months leading up to Synod. Delegates and interested congregants of the Moravian Church in Canada are encouraged to participate in these discussion groups which will help to inform future work of the Canadian District and its newly elected Board of Elders.

District Dialogues will take place through video conference from 7 - 9 pm on Tuesdays, March 9, March 30 and April 27, 2021. Attendance on all three dates would be expected as there will likely be carry over from session to session.

Discussion topics will be related to the District Purpose Statement that was developed by clergy and the BECD in early 2020. It reads:

The Canadian District is called by God to ...

- *inhabit our neighborhoods,*
- *cultivate meaningful ways to use God's resources to ...*
- *share the good news and live God's radical love in the world.*

More specific topics related to these purposes will be framed for discussion. Once your registration is received, you will be given the opportunity to choose a topic of interest to you.

Those choosing to participate in the District Dialogues are asked to complete the attached registration form and return it to greg@mcnp.org, by Tuesday, March 2, 2021.

Your participation in these dialogue groups is important to planning the future of the Moravian Church in Canada.

Further questions may be directed to Rev. Gohdes or Donna Gordon, Board of Elders Canadian District.



**Registration for the District Dialogue Groups of the
Canadian District of the Moravian Church, Northern Province
Tuesdays, 7 – 9 pm: March 9, March 30 and April Wednesday and Thursday
May 19 & 20, 2021**

Using a video conference in response to the Pandemic.

(this information is for Synod use only and will not be distributed to other organizations)

**Please complete and return to
Greg Weir, Via email greg@mcnp.org by March 2, 2021**

**All attendees for the District Dialogue groups are required to complete a registration form.
Please print clearly.**

First Name _____ Last _____

Congregation/Agency _____

Preferred Phone _____

Email _____

Children's Worship Bulletin

The Rainbow of Promise

Genesis 9:8-17

Word Search

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

REMEMBER	COVENANT	WATERS	BIRDS	DESTROY
APPEARS	CREATURES	EARTH	FLOOD	ANIMALS
SIGN	CLOUDS	LIFE	RAINBOW	LIVESTOCK

Christ Moravian Church
Calgary, Alberta

Decoder Puzzle

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

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

- 7-25-11-15 _____
- 16-20-21-5 _____
- 11-7-20-26-11-13-14 _____
- 11-21-17 _____
- 5-1-14-12-21-25-9 _____
- 1-11-21-12-15 _____
- 21-11-20-7-16-25-22 _____
- 24-13-25-6-5 _____
- 24-25-4-1-7-11-7-12 _____
- 8-13-25-25-5 _____

COVENANT	DESTROY	NOAH	CLOUD	RAINBOW
FLOOD	ANIMALS	BIRD	ARK	EARTH



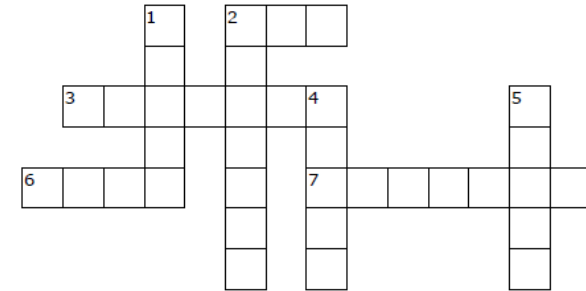
Coloring Page



GOD'S PROMISE TO ALL LIFE ON THE EARTH

"Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth."
Genesis 9:16 (NIV)

Crossword Puzzle



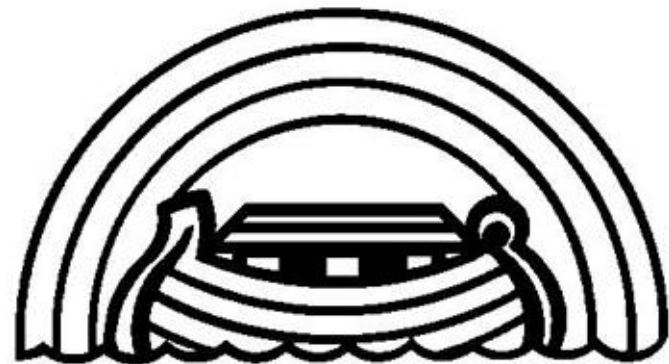
ACROSS

2. A large boat in which Noah and his family were saved from the Flood
3. An agreement between two people do do (or not do) something
6. A winged animal covered with feathers
7. A colored arc of light that appears in the sky after it rains

DOWN

1. A great amount of water that rises and spreads over the land
2. Dogs, cats, lions, and tigers for example.
4. The planet where you and I live
5. A light puffy mass of water vapor floating in the sky

BIRD	RAINBOW	EARTH	PROMISE
ARK	CLOUD	ANIMALS	FLOOD



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Focus on Mark 1:9–15

WHAT is important to know?

— From “*Exegetical Perspective*,” Stanley P. Saunders

The Spirit drives Jesus out into the wilderness to be tested by Satan. Jesus is retracing the steps of Israel’s history in order to rewrite her story. Whereas Israel in the wilderness stumbled and wandered for forty years in sin, rebellion, and distrust, longing again for the chains of slavery, Jesus withstands Satan’s tests in the wilderness for forty days. By this means, Jesus is retracing Israel’s steps, rewriting her story, and recasting the destiny of all of God’s people. Jesus’ first declaration of the gospel, after the temptation in the wilderness, says as much: he announces that the time has been made full, and God’s rule has come near.

WHERE is God in these words?

— From “*Theological Perspective*,” Marilyn McCord Adams

Implicitly, Mark’s Gospel also makes Lent the norm for Christian life. However it may have been for Jesus, resolution for us cannot be “once and for all” immediate, but a matter of surrendering our imperfect conceptions and wrestling for God’s meaning afresh every day. These spiritual gymnastics strengthen us for major trials by deepening our acquaintance with the God who calls us. Things may go so badly for us that we lose sight of divine favor. Jesus’ regular prayed *experience* of divine favor enabled him to remain resolute, even when he consciously wondered whether God had abandoned him (15:34).

SO WHAT does this mean for our lives?

— From “*Pastoral Perspective*,” Rodney J. Hunter

Especially during the season of Lent, shall we not also then be prepared to bear the cost of our divine name and mission as Jesus’ disciples, in the confident hope of our ultimate divine affirmation in the resurrection power and love of God? “For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God . . . When we cry ‘Abba! Father!’ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ” (Rom. 8:14, 15c–17).

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

— From “*Homiletical Perspective*,”
Barbara Brown Taylor

Though Christian tradition holds that he was without sin, Jesus freely chose John’s baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (practicing what he was about to preach). When the voice from heaven told him who he was, he attached no privilege to that announcement of divine favor. When the Spirit drove him into the wilderness, he did not seek a way out. The Beloved Son accepted the company God gave him in the desert—Satan, wild animals, ministering angels—with no drama of preferring one to the other. Here is someone who wastes no time defending himself against what comes to him, knowing that everything comes from God. Here is someone who shows us what it means to please God.

Common Spiritual Disciplines

Fasting or Self-Denial

Traditionally, Christians have given up a meal or a specific food during Lent. This practice of self-denial has grown to include giving up other things that give pleasure, such as shopping for nonessential items, going on trips, or watching television.

Increased Prayer

Christians always pray but increased prayer and trying different practices of prayer are common during Lent.

Almsgiving or Service

Traditionally, Christians have increased charitable giving during Lent. Many churches participate in special offerings during Lent. Voluntary service to others is another way of giving.

Bible Study

Increased study of the Scriptures or theological ideas or doctrines is a Lenten practice. Included in this discipline is setting aside time each day for devotional reading.