

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

Watchword for the Week:

*How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them! Psalm 139:17*



Pastoral Letter for the weekend of January 17th, 2021

Sunday Worship Theme: “*Christ’s Call as a Disciple*”

Greetings, Friends in Christ

We have fully launched into this new year and so many things have occurred to denote that we walk in a very historical time. Issues of political strife and change abound. The news of the COVID-19 vaccine is beginning to go beyond talk to active vaccinations for those most vulnerable and at risk. Even in our own small circles of relationship and family connection we are seeing amazing events occur. In the worship service this weekend, we find Jesus calling out to disciples who are busy in their own lives, and yet pause to respond and begin walking with Jesus in historic ministry and service. I sense we have all begun to review and assess whose voices we are listening to as we journey in life and respond in faith to God’s call given to each of us. The closing song of this week’s worship service has become one of my favorite hymns. “Will You Come and Follow Me” offers a message reflecting this call of Christ, and our humble role in responding as a child of God, a brother or sister to Jesus. Just in that first verse of the hymn we find such a powerful announcement of Christ’s call unto us.

For more information, visit our website @

www.christmoravian.com

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*“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”*

As these historic days move is into the future, may we all pause to reflect and listen and seek to discern the call of Jesus Christ in guiding our lives and the wider church and social communities in which we walk.

Please note that the CMC Executive Board leadership and Fellowship of Elders will be meeting in the near future to finalize a review of pertinent congregational details and begin plans and forecasts for the upcoming 2021 year of ministry. Further details of this will be shared as developed.

Let’s keep prayerfully in touch with one another.

Blessings,
Pastor 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 for 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’re able to assist, or perhaps volunteer some time, please contact Donna Gordon for details.

In All Things Love...

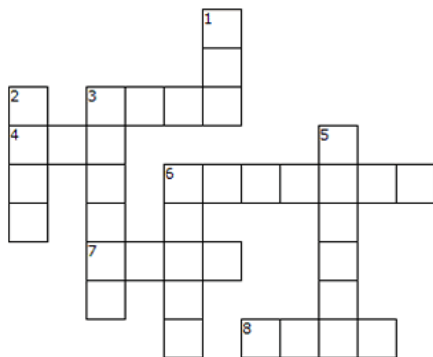


Samuel Does Right
1 Samuel 2-4, 7

The Call of Samuel

And the Lord came and called as before, "Samuel! Samuel!"
And Samuel replied, "Speak, your servant is listening."
1 Samuel 3:10 (NLT)

Based on 1 Samuel 3:1-10



ACROSS

3. Another name for God
4. A priest in the temple at Shilo
(1 Samuel 3:1)
6. A person who is employed to do
work for another person
7. The pair of organs of seeing in
the faces of humans and animals
8. To ask someone to come to you

DOWN

1. A piece of furniture with a flat
surface that a person can lie on
to sleep
2. Not strong
3. To give attention to a person who
is speaking
5. A boy who ministered with Eli
6. To say words; to use the voice

SAMUEL	SPEAK	CALL	ELI	WEAK
BED	EYES	LORD	SERVANT	LISTEN

The Call of Samuel

And the Lord came and called as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel replied, "Speak, your servant is listening." 1 Samuel 3:10 (NLT)

Choose the word that best matches the definition.

Answers can be found in 1 Samuel 3:1-10)



- ___ 1. Another name for God
A. Eli B. Samuel C. Servant D. Lord
- ___ 2. To say words; to use the voice
A. look B. speak C. hear D. listen
- ___ 3. To give attention to a person who is speaking
A. call B. speak C. listen D. eyes
- ___ 4. A priest in the temple at Shilo (1 Samuel 3:1)
A. Moses B. Eli C. Samuel D. Jacob
- ___ 5. A boy who ministered with Eli in the temple
A. Samuel B. David C. Joseph D. Daniel
- ___ 6. A piece of furniture with a flat surface that a person can lie on to sleep
A. chairl B. bed C. table D. ark
- ___ 7. A person who is employed to do work for another person
A. servant B. priest C. boss D. soldier
- ___ 8. To ask someone to come to you
A. speak B. call C. sleep D. listen
- ___ 9. The pair of organs of seeing in the faces of humans and animals
A. ears B. nose C. eyes D. mouth
- ___ 10. Not strong
A. weak B. tall C. young D. blind

The Call of Samuel

And the Lord came and called as before, "Samuel! Samuel!"
And Samuel replied, "Speak, your servant is listening."
1 Samuel 3:10 (NLT)

Based on 1 Samuel 3:1-10



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

LAMP	WORD	VISIONS	EYES	SERVANT
BOY	SPEAK	CALL	REVEALED	LORD
NIGHT	SAMUEL	LISTENING	WEAK	ARK
LIE	SEE	TEMPLE	THIRD	ELI

Focus on 1 Samuel 3:1–10, (11–20)

WHAT is important to know?

— From “Exegetical Perspective,” Richard Boyce

Human speaking and hearing now become one of the main means by which the light of God's revelation breaks into the affairs of this world. Here, at this point in the story, when words from the Lord are rare, this listening and hearing becomes a communal affair, dependent on both the hearing and the speaking of the community together. As the stories of Saul and David spin on in 1 and 2 Samuel, there will be times when the Lord seems absent from the scene. All we will hear are words of human beings, on the one hand, counterpoised with actions of human beings, on the other. And yet even here we will learn that the Lord is at work. Indeed the Lord has drawn as near as the words and actions of our fellow human beings, attuned or not attuned to the voice of their God.

WHERE is God in these words?

— From “Theological Perspective,” Joseph L. Price

Throughout the ages persons have perceived their call into ministry in a variety of ways—from the blinding experience of Paul on the road to Damascus, to the visionary perception by Ezekiel, to the intensifying sense of moral compulsion that Jeremiah increasingly discerned. Here we discern another distinct means of a call, so clear in its articulation that it is recognized as a call, a voice. The story of Samuel's call establishes his authority, empowering his transfer of priestly leadership from Eli to Saul, and reinforcing hope in God—that God will refresh and renew.

SO WHAT does this mean for our lives?

— From “Pastoral Perspective,” Donna Schaper

Eli and Samuel's encounter with God has a dramatic motion. An old man and a young man collaborate to hear God's vision for a new Israel. When was the last time you felt a “tingle” about the word of God to you? When was the last time you experienced hope kicking into high gear, forgiveness writ loud, pins and needles all over your body because you were so excited? With its promise of “pins and needles,” this passage is a kind of spiritual acupuncture. It brings us by way of thrilling news to a time of renewal and forgiveness.

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

— From “Homiletical Perspective,”

Lawrence Wood

This comic, tender, tragic story really does come from modern life. In an age of divine reticence and the all-too-human failings of religious leaders, it speaks to every servant weighed down with fatigue or regret. Are we Samuel? Are we Eli? Can we really be sure which? And what shall we do if the living God comes into our troubled temple? It is Eli, ironically enough, who tells us what to say: “Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.”

The Context of Samuel's Call

A woman named Hannah was childless and suffered for it. She went to the temple and cried bitterly to God. She made a vow to God that, if given a child, she would give the child to the service of the Lord.

Eli the temple priest overheard her wailing prayer and accused her of being drunk. She explained the situation to him and how she suffered. Eli then changed his tone and told her he hoped her prayer would be answered.

Indeed, she had a child and named him Samuel. When he was old enough, she gave him to Eli to serve God. She later had three more sons and two daughters.

The tradition at that time was for the priestly lineage to continue through Eli's family. But Eli's sons were corrupt. Right before our story today a man came to Eli and told him the Lord had revealed that because of the corruption of the priesthood, Eli's line would end and a faithful priest would be chosen, not from Eli's lineage.



Worship & Event Links ~ January 17th, 2021

Topic: CMC Bible Buddies

Hi Everyone,

Attached is the Bible study lesson for January 17th – Discerning God's Call – 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)

Link to join is below.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81982362860?pwd=YjJQVmcxQTJGMVJIS01QSmt2MmozUT09>

Meeting ID: 819 8236 2860

Passcode: 603307

One tap mobile

+16475580588,,81982362860# Canada

+17789072071,,81982362860# Canada

PS: Jan Richardson's website is: <https://www.janrichardson.com/>

Be the light,

Barb: -)

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	