

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



Congregational Newsletter for the weekend of May 9th, 2021

Sunday Worship Focus:
"Love Another as You are Loved"

Greetings Friends in Christ:

As the month of May arrives, many folks find a highlight in Mother's Day weekend. The loving, nurturing presence of moms and the many others who reach out to another with maternal love and tender compassion reflect the wondrous love of God, a heavenly Mother. Those words of scripture that highlight God's everlasting care of each in Jesus' exclamation...

"how often I've longed to gather the children together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings."

That's such a profound image we come to treasure. Imagine in these difficult days as COVID-19 cases and the variants of concern are spiking we would come to realize the many ways the God of compassion and concern seeks to shelter each through all those long familiar practices of masks, physical distance, hand hygiene and vaccinations.

Through some special worship features this weekend, the CMC worship team has tried to express a bit of the love God seeks to extend inviting us all to "love as we are loved".

Warm Spring Blessings,

Pastor Steve Gohdes

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

Upcoming Events

"Bible Buddies"
Sunday May 9th
@ 9:00 am
Zoom details are on
the Events page

Wed. May 19th
Canadian District
Special Synod
meets virtually
@ 7:00 pm

Wed. May 25th
Executive Board
meets @ 7:00 pm
via Zoom



Moravian Daily Text Watchword for the Week

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.
Psalm 98:4*

Please check out these highlights and watch for some new info of activities and plans at CMC.

NEWCOMERS TO CMC:

If you know of a friend, a loved one, or an acquaintance who has begun worshipping with our Virtual Video Services, please let us know at the church office. Pastor Gohdes would treasure a conversation or email chat with these "virtual newcomers" to find out more about the special way God may be speaking to them through the congregational videos. It's quite a gift for God to keep reaching out with the message of Christ's agape love even during this time in which we have not physically been gathering.

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!

- 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 or Phone the church office at 403-271-2700.

Help us make a joyful sound unto the Lord!

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 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 with any questions or communication.
- 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...

Love One Another

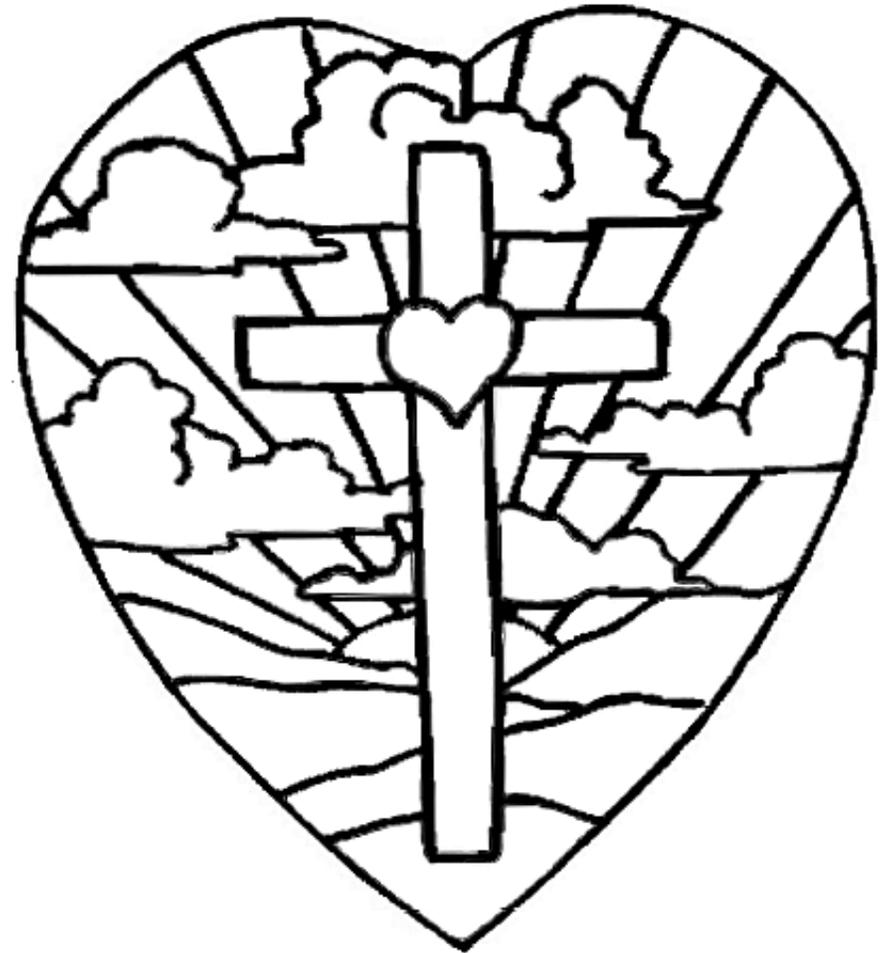
John 15:9-17

Word Search Puzzle

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

FRIENDS	OBEY	LOVE	FRUIT
DOWN	BUSINESS	BEAR	MASTER
LAY	FATHER	LIFE	REMAIN
SERVANTS	GREATER	COMMAND	CHOSE

Your Church Name Here
Anytown, USA



"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command."

John 15:12-14 (NIV)

Decoder Puzzle

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

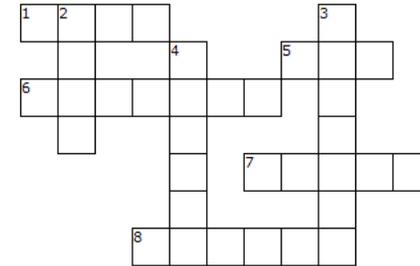
X	J	R	Y	D	G	O	V	T	F	E	N	H	Q	W	C	L	B	U	A	S	M	K	P	Z	I
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 17-7-8-11 _____
- 3-11-22-20-26-12 _____
- 2-7-4 _____
- 10-3-26-11-12-5-21 _____
- 21-11-3-8-20-12-9 _____
- 22-20-21-9-11-3 _____
- 10-20-9-13-11-3 _____
- 16-7-22-22-20-12-5 _____

MASTER	FRIENDS	COMMAND	LOVE
SERVANT	FATHER	REMAIN	JOY



Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- To hold dear, to like or desire greatly
- A state of happiness or delight
- Someone that performs duties for a master
- To gain knowledge, skill, or understanding
- A person that you like very much

DOWN

- To do what you are told; follow the rules
- An order which a person is expected to obey
- One who has authority over another person

MASTER	OBEY	LOVE	COMMAND
FRIEND	SERVANT	LEARN	JOY



Focus on Acts 10:44–48

WHAT is important to know?

— From “Exegetical Perspective,” A. Katherine Grieb

Peter’s question—“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?”—underlines the priority of God’s action and the subsequent response of the church. To restate the words spoken to Peter in his vision at Joppa, “what God has made clean,” the church must not call profane (10:15). The pouring out of the Holy Spirit upon Cornelius and his companions shows God’s acceptance of these Gentiles. They have received the gift of the Spirit (speaking in tongues and extolling God) “just as we have,” a clear reference back to the outpouring of the Spirit upon Jewish Christians at Pentecost.

WHERE is God in these words?

— From “Theological Perspective,” Noel Leo Erskine

It is instructive that in Peter’s sermon in Cornelius’s house the Holy Spirit interrupts him again. It is as if the Holy Spirit seeks to remind the listeners that, as eloquent as Peter’s sermon was, what is crucial is not Peter’s perception of the gospel, but Peter allowing God to speak through and in spite of him. God was and is and must always be the subject of salvation. Peter was an instrument, not the source of salvation. The new revelation made possible by the inbreaking of the Holy One was clear.

SO WHAT does this mean for our lives?

— From “Pastoral Perspective,”

Jeffrey D. Peterson-Davis

In this brief text we find exemplified the extravagance of the Holy Spirit and the wideness of God’s grace. This story demonstrates that the Spirit is not bound by the limitations that even faithful believers have. The Spirit is not only poured out on the Gentiles; it is given to the Jewish Christians, enabling them to see with new eyes and capture a new vision of the kingdom of God. This is an important text for the church today. Not only do the wounds of exclusion run deep in our culture and in the church; the realities of uncrossed boundaries still exist.

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

— From “Homiletical Perspective,”

Barbara K. Lundblad

“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” (v. 47). Peter echoes the question the Ethiopian eunuch asked Philip back in chapter 8: “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” Those who heard that story could have shouted, “Everything prevents you! You’re a different race, you are from a far-off country, you are a sexual misfit, and you have had very little instruction.” In both stories, there were good reasons to withhold the water of baptism. Yet the Holy Spirit surprised Philip on a desert road and surprised Peter in Cornelius’s house. The Holy Spirit can be disruptive.

Readers' Theater of Acts 10:1–42

Narrator:

Cornelius, a captain of the Italian Guard in Caesarea, had led everyone in his house to live worshipfully before God. He was always helping people in need, and had the habit of prayer. One afternoon he had a vision.

Angel:

Cornelius.

Cornelius:

What do you want, sir?

Angel:

Your prayers and neighborly acts have brought you to God's attention. Send men to Joppa to get Simon Peter. He is staying with Simon the Tanner.

Narrator:

So Cornelius called two servants and a soldier and sent them off to Joppa.

The next day, Peter went out on the balcony to pray and fell into a trance. He saw the skies open up. Something that looked like a huge blanket lowered by ropes at its four corners settled on the ground. Every kind of animal and reptile and bird you could think of was on it.

Voice:

Go to it, Peter—kill and eat.

Peter:

Oh, no, Lord. I've never tasted food that was not kosher.

Voice:

If God says it's OK, it's OK.

Narrator:

This happened three times, and then the blanket was pulled back up into the skies. As Peter was trying to figure out what it all meant, the men sent by Cornelius showed up.

Spirit:

Three men are looking for you. Go with them. Don't ask any questions. I sent them to get you.

Peter:

I think I'm the man you're looking for. What's up?

Men:

Captain Cornelius, a God-fearing man, was commanded by a holy angel to bring you to his house so he could hear what you had to say.

Narrator:

Peter invited them in and made them feel at home. The next morning he got up and went with them. The minute Peter came in, Cornelius was up on his feet greeting him—and then down on his face worshiping him!

Peter:

None of that—I'm a man and only a man, no different from you.

Narrator:

Talking things over, they went on into the house, where Cornelius introduced Peter to everyone.

Peter:

You know, I'm sure that this is highly irregular. Jews just don't do this—visit with people of another race. But God has just shown me that no race is better than any other. So the minute I was sent for, I came, no questions asked. Now I'd like to know why you sent for me.

Narrator:

So Cornelius explained what had happened.

Cornelius:

"You've been good enough to come. And now we're here in God's presence, ready to listen to whatever the Master put in your heart to tell us."

Peter:

Nothing could be plainer: God plays no favorites! It makes no difference who you are—if you want God and are ready to do as God says, the door is open.

—Excerpted and adapted from Acts 10:1–42 in *The Message* by Eugene Peterson