

CHRIST MORAVIAN CHURCH

In Essentials, Unity; In Non-Essentials, Liberty; In All Things, Love

Contact Us

Christ Moravian Church

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Pastor: Rev. Stephen Gohdes

Admin. Assistant: Andrea

Executive Board

Chair: Alan Bartlett

Vice Chair: Bernard Amiot

Secretary: Pat Holm

Bookkeeper: Bobbie Callander

Treasurer: Roger Lohrey, David Bennet

Spiritual Programs: Bernard Amiot, Donna Gordon, Alan Bartlett

Congregational Nurture: Cathie Queen, Don Kawchuk

Mission & Outreach: Donna Gordon, Jody Gorai, Catherine Wade

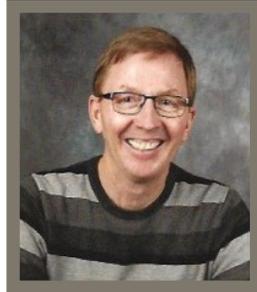
Church Operations: Martin Driver, Catherine Wade, David Bennett

Finance: Pat Holm, David Bennett

Fellowship of Elders

Bernard Amiot, Mary Anne Gates, Rev. Gohdes, Donna Gordon, Holly Heffernan, Arlene Kawchuk, Duncan McKerchar, Brian Pemberton, Gloria Taylor, Gloria Toole, Pat Wolff, Doug Zeck

Pastor's Ponderings



Wow! As I flipped the calendar over to reveal this new year and new decade I found myself a bit surprised and shocked. This past year for CMC has been such a special one, highlighted with the 50th Anniversary celebration, and so many other splendid activities, experiences, and new beginnings for the church. It was such a busy year that I hadn't really begun to look too far ahead in time.

I find myself desiring time to sloooowww down. Alas, we all know time simply moves forward at its own pace, and I am led then to adjust the manner in which I faithfully live. Might Christ speak to me, and possibly all of us, and suggest that we find the simple joy, goodness, peace, love and more in each new day that arrives.

At the January 5th worship service we shared the 2020 Watchword of Faith that was selected for the congregation. I found the CMC congregational text to be such an inspiration for us all.

1 John 4:16 says:

"So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love, abide in God, and God abides in them."

As 2020 unfolds, I invite each of us to recognize and treasure the love abiding within us through God's Spirit; and, may our experiences of this love help us to be living examples of God's enduring love in the world.

Shalom,

Pastor Steve Gohdes

Be sure to pick up your personal **WATCHWORD for 2020** from the Daily Texts selections compiled by Pastor Steve and located on the entrance table of the church.

[Click on Passage
to Read Scripture](#)

SCRIPTURE & WORSHIP THEME

January 5

[Jeremiah 31:7-14](#)
[Psalm 147:12-20](#)
[Ephesians 1:3-14](#)
[John 1:\(1-9\), 10-18](#)

January 12

[Isaiah 42:1-9](#)
[Psalm 29](#)
[Acts 10:34-43](#)
[Matthew 3:13-17](#)

January 19

[Isaiah 49:1-7](#)
[Psalm 40:1-11](#)
[1 Corinthians 1:1-9](#)
[John 1:29-42](#)

January 26

[Isaiah 9:1-4](#)
[Psalm 27:1, 4-9](#)
[1 Corinthians 1:10-18](#)
[Matthew 4:12-23](#)

February 2

[Micah 6:1-8](#)
[Psalm 15](#)
[1 Corinthians 1:18-31](#)
[Matthew 5:1-12](#)

February 9

[Isaiah 58:1-9a \(9b-12\)](#)
[Psalm 112:1-9 \(10\)](#)
[1 Corinthians 2:1-12](#)
[\(13-16\)](#)
[Matthew 5:13-20](#)

February 16

[Deuteronomy 30:15-20](#)
[Psalm 119:1-8](#)
[1 Corinthians 3:1-9](#)
[Matthew 5:21-37](#)

February 23

[Exodus 24:12-18](#)
[Psalm 2](#)
[2 Peter 1:16-21](#)
[Matthew 17:1-9](#)

March 2

[Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7](#)
[Psalm 32](#)
[Romans 5:12-19](#)
[Matthew 4:1-11](#)

Worship Receives Unlikely Gifts at Unlikely Moments!

As the long, dark, cold months of January and February occur, Sunday worship becomes a time in which we discover some wondrous, and unlikely gifts that God offers at the most unlikely moments. Events of faith from the past, spring to life in our lives in a way that brings joy, delight, and surprise. God designs life to be received as a gift each day, finding grace, love, and peace at those most unlikely moments and places. Here's some highlights to come in this season ahead.

- January 5** Second Sunday after Christmas Day
Guest Speaker: Rev. Michael Ward
Holy Communion postponed to January 12
- January 12** First Sunday after Epiphany, Holy Communion
Scripture focus: The Baptism of Jesus. God is discovered in times of birth, beginning and blessing.
Special Music: Marty Antonini
- January 19** Second Sunday after Epiphany
Scripture Focus: Jesus calls disciples to serve. We discover the unlikely joy found in serving Christ with our gifts.
Special Music: Mandy & Damian Jordan; Kathy Pepers, Accompanist
- January 26** Third Sunday after Epiphany
Scripture Focus: Jesus begins the focus of a life-giving ministry. God's love is found amidst our acts of compassion and care as we follow Christ.
Birthday Sunday & Noisy Offering. Jean Hergert, Accompanist
- February 2** Fourth Sunday after Epiphany, Holy Communion,
Scripture Focus: "The Beatitudes". We discover rich blessings.
- February 9** Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Scripture Focus: "Salt & Light". The common of life is found to be "uncommon" in Christ.
- February 16** Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
Scripture Focus: "Love Discovered", 1 Corinthians 13
- February 23** Transfiguration Sunday
Scripture Focus: "The Transfiguration of Christ". Changes that startle us.
Birthday Sunday, Noisy Offering
- February 26** Ash Wednesday Service - 7pm
Led by the Elders

NEWS & EVENTS

Upcoming Events

SUNDAYS

Bible Study, 9am
Worship Service: 10:30 am

JANUARY

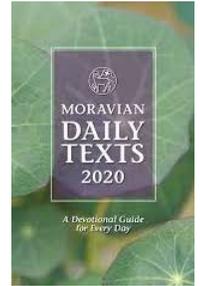
- 5** Open Door, 11:45
- 8** Southwood Chapel, 9:45am
- 9** Tree Removal, 9:30am
- 9** Canasta, 1pm
- 17** Mustard Seed Sandwiches, 1pm
- 18** Sanctuary Booked
- 20** Spiritual Companions, 1pm
- 22** Executive Board, 7pm
- 21** Acadia Food Pantry, 10pm
- 22** Knitting Group, 10am
- 23** Canasta, 1pm
- 25** Sanctuary Booked
- 30** Elders Meeting, 2pm
- 31** Ladies Tea, 1:15pm

FEBRUARY

- 1** Men's Breakfast, 8:30am
- 5** Women's Fellowship, 10am
- 9** Church Council, noon
- 12** Southwood Chapel, 9:45am
- 13** Canasta, 1pm
- 18** Acadia Food Pantry, 10am
- 22** Coldest Night of the Year
- 26** Knitting Group, 10 am
- 26** Ash Wednesday Service, 7pm
- 27** Canasta, 1pm
- 28** Ladies Tea, 1:15pm

Moravian Daily Texts & Watchword

First published in 1731 at Herrnhut, Germany, the Moravian Daily Texts continues its promise of "a daily message from God that is new every morning." Each entry in this devotional includes "watchwords" (Old and New Testament verses to accompany readers throughout the day), combined with hymns and prayers selected and written by Moravians across North America. Copies of the Daily Texts are available for purchase at the church, or you can sign up to have the daily message sent to your email each morning: moravian.org/subscribe-to-the-daily-texts/. Moravian Church Without Walls also provides a podcast version of the Daily Texts at anchor.fm/mcww.



Canadian District Synod Delegates



The Canadian District Synod of 2020 will convene at Van Es Camp and Conference Centre on Friday, May 22 and will end on Sunday, May 24. The purpose of this Synod is to renew Christian fellowship and strengthen the work of the Lord. The accomplishments of the District and its congregations will be reviewed and consideration will be given to providing ways and means to strengthen this work. District boards and officers will be elected for the next intersynodal period. Christ Moravian Church is invited to send four lay delegates from our congregation, in addition to Rev. Gohdes and our two current district board members, Donna Gordon and Holly Heffernan. These delegates will be elected at Church Council on February 9, 2020. If you are interested in representing CMC as a Synod delegate, please speak with Donna Gordon no later than February 5.

Epiphany Online Bible Study - Jan 21 - Feb 11, 7pm

Pastors Rebecca, James and Aaron of the Edmonton area Moravian Churches will lead an Epiphany Bible Study at 7 pm on Tuesdays from January 21 to February 11. It is entitled "Looking for Light" and will focus on the parables of Jesus while looking for the many ways He brings us into community. This bible study will use an online platform called Zoom so that you may participate from the comfort of your home. All you need is access to the internet on a device with a camera and a Zoom account. Instructions on how to use Zoom will be given following worship on January 19. If you are interested in joining other Moravians from the province in this bible study, please sign up or speak with Donna Gordon.



NEWS & EVENTS



Board Briefs

Church Council**February 9, 2019, following worship**

All congregational members are called to attend the upcoming winter church council meeting. This brief meeting has three main agenda items:

- 1) Acceptance of financial statements for 2019
- 2) Acceptance of the proposed budget for 2020
- 3) Election of Synod 2020 delegates

Any other agenda items should be brought forward to Chair Alan Bartlett prior to the meeting.

East Door Ramp: In response to requests from the congregation, the Board explored the installation of a ramp for the east (side) entrance and has approved its installation at a cost of just under \$4,000. A significant donation was made towards this expense with the remainder to come from the reserve fund. Work will begin in the spring, once the weather allows.

Legacy Fund: Thanks to your generous donations, the total received in 2019 by the Legacy Fund for the new audiovisual system was \$19,118.25. Several components of the new system were installed just before Christmas with additional elements and some tweaking of the system still to come. We would still like to reach the target of \$26,000.00, so donations will continue to be accepted. Any surplus will be applied to the installation of the new side ramp.

New Treasurer: David Bennet has now resumed his role as Treasurer for CMC. A big thank you goes out to Roger Lohrey who served in this capacity for the past few years and to Bobbie Calendar who will continue her position as bookkeeper. If you require a reimbursement, please complete the Reimbursement Voucher and submit it to David along with the attached invoice(s) or receipt(s). Reimbursement cheques will be generated twice a month, so they should be in your mailbox at the middle or end of the month.

Long Range Task Force Results:

The Long Range Task Force has completed its work and submitted its final report to the Executive Board. The report includes a discussion of the church "essentials", identifies strengths and opportunities, and provides twelve main recommendations.

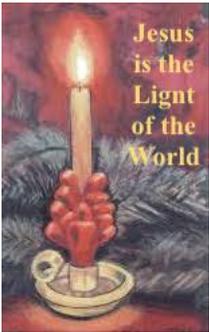
At the Open Door Session held on January 5, the Task Force presented highlights from the report. If you missed this presentation it will be given again in the near future. Watch for news of the exact date.

Those interested in receiving a PDF copy of the report can make a request to Andrea or view it on the church website, christmoravian.com.

The Executive Board is now in the process of developing an action plan to follow up on those recommendations. If you are interested in participating in one of the initiatives, don't hesitate to talk to myself or one of the Board Members. We'd love to have you aboard!

Bernard Amiot,
Chair of the Long Range Task Force

NEWS & EVENTS

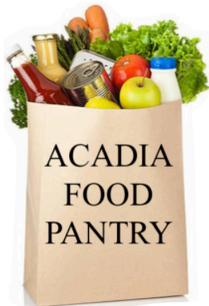


CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS & DONATIONS

As has been the tradition at Christ Moravian Church, half of the Christmas Eve loose offerings were donated as benevolences. Funds for this year were divided between two charitable projects, one local local and one global.

The Moravian Institute in Rajpur, Northern India received \$2760 from the Christmas Eve offering as well as \$447 in youth/noisy offerings collected over and above the amount required for our sponsored student, making a total donation of \$3207.

The Moravian Institute in Rajpur provides education to vulnerable children in northern India and equips young adults to succeed in life. The Canadian District of the Moravian Church has been helping children in Rajpur for over 45 years through the Rajpur Foster Child project. Sponsors in Canada provide tuition plus room and board for disadvantaged children. For more information, contact rajpur.ca.



Did you know that 1 in 6 children in Canada live in food insecure households, and that families are only allowed to access the Calgary Food Bank seven times a year?

Christ Moravian Church is committed to helping food insecure families living in our community through active participation in the Acadia Food Pantry. We currently have eight of our members helping out monthly while others contribute donations of cash and nonperishable items. On December 17, we were happy to distribute 40 food hampers with all of the fixings for a Christmas dinner. \$2650 from the Christmas Eve offering was donated to the Acadia Food Pantry so that we could continue to support this good work.

Thank you to those from CMC who help out on a regular basis. For more information on the Acadia Food Pantry, or to volunteer on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, contact Donna Gordon or Jody Gorai.



Thank you to those who helped support the Mustard Seed by bringing in stockings and backpacks filled with toiletries and other items for their clients. The Mustard Seed meets the immediate needs of those experiencing homelessness and poverty by providing emergency shelter, food, clothing, hot showers, and hygiene supplies. There is an ongoing need for these items should you want to make donations throughout the year. CMC also makes sandwiches every other month to take to the Mustard Seed. Watch for the sign up sheet for the next sandwich making on January 17.

Thanks also to those who contributed to the Christmas Hampers for Acadia Families. We were able to help three families have a happier Christmas by filling all of their gift requests and providing a \$50 Walmart gift certificate for each family member.



YOUTH NEWS

Youth Group News submitted by Jeff Pratt

The youth Christmas party was held in December. The highlight of the evening was a visit to Southwood Care Centre where we enjoyed a wonderful visit with Rev. Sherlee McGregor McCuaig and sang some Christmas carols with other residents. The harmonizing voices of the youth were a great blessing to the residents and staff! Other highlights included a Christmas Quiz, a \$5 gift exchange and a reading of the Christmas story from the book of Luke. We enjoyed a great discussion about each person in the nativity, projecting ourselves into the story as one of the characters.

We kicked off the new year with a Laughter and Lattes event. The youth had some great discussion on the phrase "everybody is doing the best that they can, in every moment, with what they've been given". We talked about how it can be more difficult to apply that phrase to ourselves than to others.

COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR

On February 22, the youth from CMC (and others) will once again participate in the Coldest Night of the Year walk to raise funds for StreetLight, a division of Youth Unlimited, a Christ centred community organization. The StreetLight program aims to reach youth living on the streets of Calgary through their mobile drop-in centres in Bowness and the downtown core, as well as through two 24/7 crisis lines. This program provides a safe environment for vulnerable youth and facilitates mentoring relationships to help them make positive life changes. Your help in sponsoring our youth on this walk will be greatly appreciated.



Mark your calendars for a Youth Winter Retreat at Camp Van Es on March 20-22.

Youth Church: A Place of Questioning and Hope

submitted by Gloria Toole

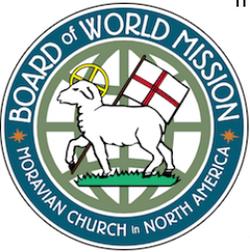
"Does everything happen for a reason?" "Are our lives pre-destined?" That's one of the issues that our young people have been discussing in our newly formed youth church. Each Sunday our junior and senior high teens meet in the Fellowship Hall kitchen to consider big ideas about faith and living. They are loving that opportunity.

And the leaders - young adults to grey-haired seekers - are feeling their way as they develop a made-in-house curriculum. Some of them are choosing topics drawn from the Seasons Online curriculum. That program usually parallels what Pastor Steve is preaching upstairs. Catherine Clarke, for example, will be exploring the story of Jesus' Baptism and emphasizing that we, with Jesus, are beloved. Others are looking at Christian rituals such as The Lord's Prayer and communion. And some, like Mark Gates, have engaged them in the ethics of popular culture. He even gave them homework! Our successes are varied. My lesson on communion bombed. I set out to relate the Moravian experience that led to our present practice and then go upstairs with them for communion. Didn't happen. Instead, the talk - mostly mine - continued. One of them was excited about his own experience of communion in an English cathedral that summer; the other went glassy-eyed.

As leaders, we're beginning to understand we're losing them in theology and engaging them when we hit what's meaningful in their teenage lives. Our young people are giving us ideas and feedback. It's important to come together - our youth and our leaders - to consider what's next; what training and materials - and space we need. How we can reach out beyond ourselves? Our youth church quest has begun after about 2 decades of drought. There's more to come.

MORAVIAN MISSION MOMENT

Message from Justin Rabbach Executive Director, Board of World Mission



In 2019, the Board of World Mission (BWM) worked hard to find the right language to describe our purpose. As a board and staff, we had conversations on the ministry we felt God was calling us to and the ways we could best serve. Looking at the “what”, “why”, and “how” of our work, we think we found a good way to explain our purpose: *“The BWM builds relationships through Mission Outreach and Mission Engagement to be faithful to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.”*

Regardless of the mission effort, it all starts with relationships. We are called to love God and love each other, and that love drives us to reach out in mission, to go and do likewise, and to make disciples of all nations.

While often the work of the BWM is to share about the relationships with our global partners, right now, this letter is about saying thank you to the relationships we have with the many who take part in mission opportunities and those who offer financial support. This good work could not be accomplished without the help and support of individuals and congregations. We are so thankful for the generous support we receive and for the many people willing to share their time and talents to take part in mission experiences.

The financial support we receive has allowed us to be a strong and responsive witness in the world. Support given to the BWM over the last year has supported the following (non -exhaustive) list:

- Moravian History and Theology courses in Cuba and Peru, which are being expanded into a full curriculum in Spanish to give all of our partners in Latin America easy access to our theology and traditions.
- Thousands of meals being given to children to help prevent malnutrition through the infant feeding program in Honduras, and the school meal program in Sierra Leone
- Mission Grants to support projects in six countries in efforts to train leadership, help global partners reach out in mission in their context, and strengthening community economies. These have included scholarships to train future theology professors, starting a guinea pig farm and a photography studio to earn extra income for pastors and support their ministry, and support for evangelism efforts among the Aguaruna people of Peru and the Sukuma people of Tanzania.
- The second National Conference of the Moravian Church in Peru. This Mission Area has grown to include more than four times as many congregations since the first National Conference in 2015.
- Staff visited the Mission Area of Sierra Leone to prepare the church for their first National Conference in early 2020. This will be an important step in the development of the church as new ministries grow, and the Moravian School continues to thrive. (Test scores for students of the Moravian school on a graduation exam were some of the highest in the country this past year!)
- BWM was asked and responded to several difficult situations with global partners, and because of the long-standing relationships and pre-existing trust, we will be able to continue to remain in the conversations as conflicts seek resolution.

There is so much more to share... so look ahead to our Annual Report in the Moravian Magazine this coming Spring. In the meantime, thank you for your support of the BWM, and we pray you will continue to hold our areas in prayer and to offer gifts of time, talent and treasure.

moravianmission.org