



# 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 Note for Lent and Easter



Lent is a special time of faith. It is a time we probe a bit deeper into our hearts through prayer, through devotion, and even through those Lenten actions of sacrifice or setting aside. An emphasis I seek to practice this year is to see that Jesus is operating in my life each day with His active presence. I sometimes catch myself saying or thinking that Jesus "was", and I then remember that Jesus "is". During Lent this year, our worship activities will invite us to look at each of the Sunday scripture readings to know that Jesus "IS". The worship emphasis will have us reflect on the fascinating insights Jesus offers as to the "Nature and Being" of God. What does Jesus tell us about God?

Our Lent emphasis will be on renewal and the restoration of our weary faith lives. As the events of Holy Week and Easter arrive, the prayer below invites us to see the gift of love found in Christ's presence beyond the upper room, beyond the cross, and

beyond the tomb. We journey with Jesus in a closeness and intimacy that can only happen along the path of our own personal life.

May all be richly blessed and a rich blessing this Lent and Easter Season.

## THRESHOLD

by Jan Richardson

God of the threshold,  
This we pray:  
That what comes in  
Enters by consent,  
By invitation;

That what passes through  
Crosses over with grace,  
With mercy;

That what dwells within  
Resides in delight,  
And in integrity;

That what goes forth  
Emerges for peace,  
And for blessing.



[Click on Passage to Read Scripture](#)

**SCRIPTURE & WORSHIP THEME**

**March 1**

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

**March 8**

[Genesis 12:1-4a](#)  
[Psalm 121](#)  
[Romans 4:1-5, 13-17](#)  
[John 3:1-17](#)

**March 15**

[Exodus 17:1-7](#)  
[Psalm 95](#)  
[Romans 5:1-11](#)  
[John 4:5-42](#)

**March 22**

[1 Samuel 16:1-13](#)  
[Psalm 23](#)  
[Ephesians 5:8-14](#)  
[John 9:1-41](#)

**March 29**

[Ezekiel 37:1-14](#)  
[Psalm 130](#)  
[Romans 8:6-11](#)  
[John 11:1-45](#)

**April 5**

[Isaiah 50:4-9a](#)  
[Psalm 31:9-16](#)  
[Philippians 2:5-11](#)  
[Matthew 26:14-27:66](#)

**April 12**

[Acts 10:34-43](#)  
[Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24](#)  
[Colossians 3:1-4](#)  
[John 20:1-18](#)

**April 19**

[Acts 2:14a, 22-32](#)  
[Psalm 16](#)  
[1 Peter 1:3-9](#)  
[John 20:19-31](#)

**April 26**

[Acts 2:14a, 36-41](#)  
[Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19](#)  
[1 Peter 1:17-23](#)  
[Luke 24:13-35](#)

*Season of  
Lent & Easter*



**March 1**

***First Sunday in Lent: Jesus in the Wilderness***

Guest Speaker: Rev. Rick Beck  
 Special Music: Jorge Aviles; Accompanist: Jean Hergert

**March 8**

***Second Sunday in Lent: Jesus Tells of God's Love for the World***

Holy Communion; Special Music: Kathy Pepers

**March 15**

***Third Sunday in Lent: Jesus Tells of the Living Spring of God's Grace***

Special Music: Marty Antonini

**March 22**

***Fourth Sunday in Lent: Jesus Tells of God's Healing Love***

Special Music: Dwight Blix & Heidi Gohdes;  
 Accompanist and Harp: Kathy Pepers

**March 29**

***Fifth Sunday in Lent: Jesus Tells of God's Life-Giving Love***

Birthday Sunday/Noisy Offering  
 Special Music with Heidi Gohdes & Youth Choir



**Holy Week**

**April 5 *Palm Sunday: Jesus Tells of God's Welcome***

Congregational "Hosanna" Anthem  
 Special Music: CMC Choir; Accompanist: Jean Hergert

**April 9**

***Maundy Thursday Worship: Jesus Tells of God's Hospitality***

7pm  
 Good Shepherd Church

**April 10**

***Good Friday Holy Communion: Jesus Tells Us of God's Forgiveness***

10:30 am  
 Special Music: Heidi Gohdes

**April 12**

***Easter Morning Sunrise Service: Jesus Tells of New Life in God***

8:30am  
 Opening Service in the Sanctuary and Walk to Memorial Garden

9 - 10:15 am

***Easter Breakfast: Prepared by Men's Group***

10:30 am

***Easter Worship Celebration: Jesus Tells Us God Releases Us from Tombs***

Bring your Easter flowers to add a touch of Spring and celebrate rebirth in the resurrection of Christ.

**April 19**

***Joy and Laughter Sunday: The Doubts of Thomas***

A Day of Laughter and Joy; Special Music: Marty Antonini

**April 26**

***Third Sunday of Easter Joy: Jesus on the Road to Emmaus***

Birthday Sunday/Noisy Offering

NEWS & EVENTS

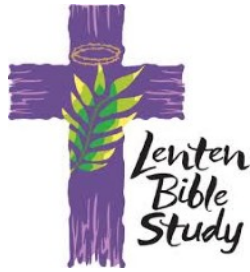
**Upcoming Events**

**MARCH**

- 1 Open Door, 11:45
- 4 Women's Fellowship, 10am
- 7 Men's Breakfast, 8:30am
- 7 Lent Bible Study, 10am
- 8 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 8 Choir Practice, 9:15am
- 8 Newcomers Group, 11:45am
- 11 Southwood Chapel, 9:45am
- 12 Canasta, 1pm
- 13 LRTF/Elders Meeting, 12 noon
- 13 Legion Dinner & Dance, 6pm
- 14 Pre-Synond Meeting, 10am
- 14 CMC Space Enhancement, 11am
- 17 Acadia Food Pantry, 10am
- 18 Executive Board, 7pm
- 20 - 22 Youth Retreat at VanEs
- 21 LRTF/Board Meeting, 9:30am
- 22 Choir Practice, 9:15
- 25 Knitting Group, 10:30am
- 25 Choir Practice, 9:15
- 26 Canasta, 1pm
- 27 Ladies Tea, 1:15pm

**APRIL**

- 1 Women's Fellowship, 10am
- 4 Seniors Resource Fair, 9:30am
- 5 Palm Sunday Worship, 10:30am
- 8 Southwood Chapel, 9:45am
- 9 Canasta, 1pm
- 9 Maundy Thursday Service,  
at Good Shepherd, 7pm
- 10 Good Friday Service, 10:30am
- 11 Men's Breakfast, 8:30am
- 12 Easter Sunday  
Sunrise Service, 8:30am  
Easter Breakfast, 9 - 10am  
Easter Service, 10:30am
- 21 Acadia Food Pantry, 10:30am
- 22 Executive Board, 7pm
- 23 Canasta. 1pm
- 24 Ladies Tea, 1:15pm



**Seeing Jesus in the Season of Lent**

**Saturday, March 7, 10am to Noon**

Pastor Gohdes will lead a discovery of the sights of Jesus in four Lenten Scripture Lessons. Coffee and Snacks to be shared. To participate, please sign up on the entryway table or call the church.

**Come join the CMC Easter Choir to offer special music on Palm Sunday (April 5).**

**Practices:**

Sunday Mornings, 9:15am: March 8, 22 & April 5  
Wednesday Evenings, 7pm: March 25 & April 1



**Legion Dinner & Dance**

**Friday, March 13, 2020**

**6 pm: Dinner Buffet, \$20    7:30: Dance, \$10 cover charge**

Sign-up or speak with Roger Lohrey



**What does it mean to be a member of Christ Moravian Church?**

Speak with Pastor Steve about attending the newcomers group on Sunday, March 8.



**Music for Missions Concert**

**Swing into Spring**

**with Marty Antonini & Friends**

Tickets go on sale mid April.

**Save the Date**

**Saturday, May 2, 7pm**

Contact Donna Gordon or Pat Wolff if you have items to donate to the silent auction.

MISSION & OUTREACH NEWS

CMC Outreach to Seniors Part II:

**AGING IN PLACE: *Seniors Resource Fair***

**Saturday, April 4, 2020**  
**9:30 am – 12:30 pm (Drop In)**

**Christ Moravian Church    600 Acadia Drive, SE**

**Meet with service providers:**

- Home care and nursing
- Home and yard maintenance
- Assisted Living
- Home safety inspection and installations
- Precooked meals



**Learn about Virtual Villages for Seniors**

If you missed the first session of the CMC Aging in Place Series held last September, Good Shepherd Moravian Church is offering a similar seminar.

***Aging: Choices and Decisions***

**Date:** Saturday, April 18, 2020

**Time:** 9 am to 3 pm

**Location:** Good Shepherd Church,  
6311 Norfolk Drive NW

Lunch to be provided.

To register, contact Good Shepherd  
(403) 274-4888 or email:

[moravian@telus.net](mailto:moravian@telus.net)



**EMERGENCY FUNDS  
UPDATE:**

The Canadian Moravian Mission Society and the Rajpur Foster Child Project would like to give heartfelt thanks to the congregations and individuals who responded to the request for emergency funds that resulted from the Alberta Government's sudden withdrawal of the Community Initiatives Program Grant. Thanks to your generosity, we have more than exceeded our goal of raising \$25,000 to make up for this loss of income. All proceeds from this request will be sent to the Moravian Institute in Rajpur to support the school and programs for orphaned and impoverished children in Northern India.

Moving forward, the best way to support the Moravian Institute in Rajpur is through child sponsorships and donations to the Rajpur Foster Children Project at [www.rajpur.ca](http://www.rajpur.ca) or email [rajpur.fpp@gmail.com](mailto:rajpur.fpp@gmail.com).

**Unity Offering for the  
Moravian Church in Rwanda**



Each year the World-Wide Moravian Church (Unitas Fratrum) selects a special mission project to support as a "Unity". The Unity Prayer Day Offering for 2020 will benefit a project within the Moravian Church in Rwanda.

The Moravian Church in Rwanda is 20 years old and has 8,000 members in some 35 congregations. Due to government regulations, and in order to ensure the continued existence of the Moravian Church in Rwanda, a national headquarters and church is required to be built in the capital city of Kigali. The Unity Prayer Day Offering will be used to erect a proper church building and headquarters on land that was purchased with the help of the Danish Moravian Mission (BDM). Further information on this project may found at [www.unitasfratrum.org](http://www.unitasfratrum.org).

***The Executive Board has decide to support this Unity mission project by providing a special offering box to receive financial donations during the month of March.***

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

**On the Cusp of the Future**

Submitted by Gloria Toole

After many years of struggling, our Children’s and Youth Church, though small, is now thriving. Almost 20 leaders come prepared at various times throughout the entire year to engage our young people as they learn bible stories, create special projects and consider how to live out the prime mandate: Love God; Love one another.

***We know God is calling us to serve more families and children. Take a deep breath, pray and imagine! We see the possibilities.***

There were almost 30 children and youth who participated in our Christmas celebration. There were new children who came to our Family Day potluck and game day. Some of our families have very young children who may soon be ready for Children’s Church.

We also have a core of adolescents and young adults who still come to church, even though they may not be enamoured with “that church stuff” or they are too busy with outside activities.

***We stand on an exciting threshold.*** God has presented us with the challenge of maintaining and growing our Children’s Church and engaging our youth in meaningful church life.



***New organizers for our Children’s and Youth Church are required beginning April 1.***

This might mean one facilitator or a leadership team. Transition help is available until June 15.

Please prayerfully consider this call. We are standing at an exciting unopened door. For more information, contact Gloria Toole.



**Implementation of LRTF Recommendations**

Submitted by Bernard Amiot

At its February monthly meeting, the Executive Board endorsed an action plan to move forward with the twelve recommendations from the Long Range Task Force. The plan is to engage the congregation and various groups within the church in the development and implementation of these new initiatives.

Over the next few weeks, the Task Force will organize the following sessions:

- Open Door session, scheduled for this coming Sunday, March 1, 2020, after service
- Special meeting with the elders on Friday afternoon, March 13 addressing some of the recommendations, including pastoral care and the shepherds program
- Workshop on Saturday, March 21, from 9:30am to 12:00 noon to discuss and develop other recommendations.

These sessions are designed to provide information and solicit input into the process. ***We encourage you to get involved and take part in these upcoming sessions.*** Together, we can make these initiatives even better. We welcome your participation and your ideas!

If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to contact Bernard Amiot at [bamiot@telus.net](mailto:bamiot@telus.net), or one of the members of the Long Range Task Force.

**CMC Space Enhancement**



One LRTF recommendation is to make the most effective use of our current facility. This will begin with a declutter and purge on March 14 at 11am. Please speak with Donna Gordon if you are able to help.

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## YOUTH NEWS

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### The Mighty Moravians March Again!

The **Mighty Moravians from CMC** participated once again in the *Coldest Night of the Year* on February 22 to raise funds for StreetLight, a division of Youth Unlimited. The StreetLight program provides mobile drop-in centres and a 24/7 crisis centre aimed at reaching youth who live on the streets of Calgary. This program provides a safe environment for vulnerable youth to experience the transforming love of God and enter into mentoring relationships that help them make positive life changes.

**Donations may be made online to the "Mighty Moravians" up until the end of March or speak with Rhonda Amiot.** <https://secure.e2rm.com/registant/donate.aspx?eventid=295308&teamID=888206>



### Other Youth News:

Submitted by Jeff Pratt

In addition to our CMC youth activities, some of our youth have found fellowship and fun participating in activities with the Southwood United Church youth group and Musical Theatre programs. Southwood has a dedicated Youth and Young Adult Minister on Staff who provides an engaging environment for open discussions about the big questions in life. Opportunities for youth to meet regularly in environments of love, grace and service are crucial to healthy spiritual and social development and we're blessed to share in this ministry with some great neighbours. Thanks to Riley Harper and Corinne Nairn at Southwood for their love and dedication to young people.

### Upcoming Retreat

**March 20-22:** Camp Van Es will be the site of our District's annual spring youth retreat. Speak with Pastor Steve if you are interested in attending.

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## MORAVIAN ECUMENICAL MOMENT

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***CMC receives a monthly Ecumenical Newsletter from Rev. Hermann Weinlick, Ecumenical Officer, Moravian Church, Northern Province. In today's political climate, this February issue provides valuable insight into the meaning and use of the word, "evangelical". Although it was written primarily for an American audience, it still has a lot of meaning for Canadians.***

Recently I ran across this sentence in a Religion News Service article: "In the U.S. 'evangelical' has come to mean white, bigoted, angry, idolatrously devoted to God and country . . ." The writer then goes on to cite some congregations whose ministry contradicts that stereotype. What does the word "evangelical" mean to you? (It means "having to do with good news.") Is your congregation a good news congregation?

Much commentary in the United States contrasts mainline congregations or denominations and evangelical congregations or denominations. Certainly there are significant differences in theology and biblical interpretation, but truthfully there is also much more in common. For example, what the mainline-produced NRSV Bible (New Revised Standard Version) and the evangelical-produced NIV (New International Version) have in common is much greater than their differences. Most of our congregations have both persons who would identify as mainline and those who would identify as evangelical, and many who prefer not to be labeled either.

We have always had differences in the church—about biblical interpretation, about the importance of world mission work, about the kinds of music in worship, about what issues preaching may deal with. One thing that is different now is that many persons are more likely to see those persons who differ from them as wrong or evil. And I believe we are more likely to label or condemn on the basis of one item of belief or behavior.

We see this playing out, for example, in the current struggles [over ordination of LGBTQ pastors] within the United Methodist Church, which will probably divide at its upcoming May meeting. I have two friends who are "progressive" Methodist pastors. One hopes faithfully that the denomination will stay together. The other feels strongly that the denomination was right to split over slavery before the U.S. Civil War and is more positive about dividing now.

I know pacifist Mennonites who find it hard to understand Catholics who oppose abortion, and Catholics who find it hard to understand Mennonite pacifists—although both of these positions are faith-based convictions (although minority stances within the Christian church) that are not favored in our U.S. culture.

Salvation Army clergy promise to abstain from alcohol and officially see homosexual relations as sinful, but the Salvation Army is one of the main providers of social services to LGBTQ persons and persons struggling with addiction. I mention this simply to illustrate how complicated are our labels of wrong and right, Christian and not Christian.

One of the most helpful and evangelical (meaning, with good news) witnesses we can give at this time in history, is to try to understand, live with, and work with Christian brothers and sisters who may have differences from us in how they live as followers of Jesus.