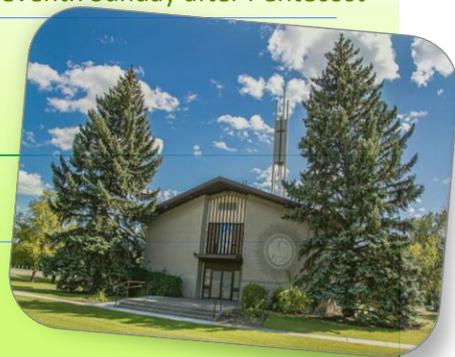


Christ Moravian Church

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 Daily Text Watchword for the Week

“Surely God’s salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.”

Psalm 85:9

Congregational Newsletter for the weekend of July 11th, 2021

Greetings Friends in Christ Moravian Church:

Steve is taking a much-needed break and has asked several Elders at CMC to be there for you in his absence. I am honoured to be your Elder of the Week and would be happy to serve should you wish or need to reach out. Please feel free to call me at 403-282-6489 or text me at 587-435-5161. We have the additional support of the Canadian Moravian Clergy should we need it.

Janis and I have a new crab-apple tree planted in our front yard. Unluckily, it was delivered on the first day of the heat wave. Its maroon leaves rapidly began to droop; some turned orange; a few fell off. Without help I suspect it would have died. We watered it each time the soil began to dry. Blessedly-- for all of us—the temperature dropped, and it rained. We are relieved to see that its leaves have begun to lift and there is the beginning of new growth.

A tree will struggle to survive, but it only thrives when an entire system is working: good soil, appropriate amounts of water, the right temperature, sunshine, little competition from other species ... and even time to rest. Winter is essential for deciduous trees.

Our spiritual lives also need the right “ecology” to grow. We turn to God; we inherit the Word and our religious practices; we receive in community.

I have been so grateful that CMC’s spiritual ecology has remained intact over the many months of the pandemic. It has depended on each of us to keep it going. Our worship team has pulled together 70 meaningful and often joyful online services. Pastor Rick Beck has led us through a Lenten Prayer retreat. Talented and organized fundraisers have staged engaging events like the recent Variety Show. Michael and Barb Ward continue to invite all of us to their powerful Sunday morning Bible Study. Our Shepherds call you. Many of us informally connect with church family members. You listen. You offer help. You reach beyond our own. And you stay in touch with God.

We at CMC know what this week’s watchword claims: *God’s salvation is at hand*. We are part of His salvation.

Prayerful greetings to everyone.

Gloria Toole

Upcoming Events

“Bible Buddies”

meet on
Sunday July 11th
at 9:00 am

Zoom details for
this Bible Study
Class are on the
Events page
of your e-mail



Canadian Moravian Summer Camps!

Check out registration news and use the link on the attachment included with this e-mail to register.

Van Es Elementary Day Camps

Completed Kindergarten - Grade 5

Location: Fish Creek Provincial Park, Calgary

Leaders: Rev. Steve Gohdes and Rev. James Lavoy

If you are volunteering in any capacity with camp this year, would you please fill out this form?

<https://forms.gle/anCCFhTzvyUaZ8s48>

Summertime Office Schedule!

As summertime arrives the CMC Office and Pastoral Staff will take a much-needed break. In the upcoming weeks, the office will be open on a limited basis, so please phone ahead if there is a request, please leave a message if no one answers. As Pastor Gohdes is away there will be Pastoral Support available with Clergy from the Moravian Church in Canada, and a CMC Elder of the week will be delegated for support.

Summertime Worship Plans!

The Executive Board and Fellowship of Elders have laid out the summertime worship schedule. As recognized the worship team is going to take a break, and for the next weeks of July we will make available the Worship Services from the Summer of 2020, highlighting several of the special services involving the “Surprises of Faith”. Each weekend a new “Surprise of Worship” will be re-visited beginning on Sunday, July 4.

CMC Variety Show has been a Grand Success!

Really big thanks to the entire team involved in the CMC Variety Show. We encourage everyone to make a special donation to assist the Hybrid Worship Fund which will allow us to stream the Sunday worship services in the future.

View the show with this link: **Christ Moravian Church - Variety Show - June 2021**

<https://vimeo.com/557900883>

CMC Video Worship Team reaches “70”!

Yes, the CMC video worship team has reached 70...not 70 years of age, but 70 video worship services completed since March of 2020. Hats off and so much appreciation for the entire team that has offered video expertise, music, stories, greetings, worship ideas, video suggestions, prayerful support and kind words. CMC has such a blessed community of faith...Thanks be to God.

Our Daily Bread for the Journey

If you wish to have a copy of the “Bread for the Journey” devotional mailed to you, please let us know by calling or e-mailing the office.

Weekly Reminders...

- Please know that you may call the church office for any needs that may arise. Feel free to phone (403-271-2700) to speak with us or leave a message. Another option is that you may contact the church office by e-mail at moravian@nucleus.com [this is monitored daily] with any questions or communication.
- **If you require assistance in getting to your COVID-19 vaccine appointment, please call the office.**
- Indranie Perera continues to receive recycling for support of Sri Lanka. She wishes to express sincere thanks to all who contribute to this worthwhile cause.

In All Things Love...

Children's Worship Bulletin

Coloring Page

He Has Chosen Us!

Ephesians 1:3-14

Word Search Puzzle

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

BELIEVE	SECRET	PLAN	PLEASURE	BLESSED
PRAISE	FAMILY	TRUST	SPIRITUAL	GUARANTEE
PURCHASED	PROMISED	CHOSE	INHERITANCE	KINDNESS
BELONG	ADOPT	FREEDOM	WISDOM	HEAVENLY



Jesus and the Children

Decoder Puzzle

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

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

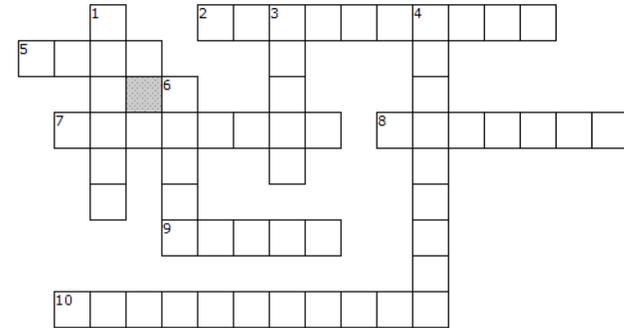
- 2-7-25-8 _____
- 11-17-12-11-10 _____
- 6-17-16-16-23-22-13 _____
- 15-12-25-17-25-8-11-16-16 _____
- 5-14-8-23-8-16-19-19 _____
- 12-8-20-10-25-8-15-14-8-15 _____
- 2-17-22-13-14-19-16-23 _____
- 14-8-10-16-17-14-11-25-8-20-16 _____
- 25-23-22-2-11 _____
- 6-25-13-14-7-1 _____
- 11-17-12-19-11 _____
- 20-10-22-19-16 _____

PLAN	INHERITANCE	FAMILY	PROMISED
TRUST	CHOSE	TRUTH	ADOPT
FREEDOM	UNCHANGING	GUARANTEE	KINDNESS



Crossword Puzzle

He Has Chosen Us



ACROSS

- Remaining the same
- A proposed course of action
- A considerate and thoughtful act
- The ability to go wherever one chooses without restriction
- To have confidence in someone or something; to depend on
- Money or property left to children by their parents

DOWN

- A group of persons consisting of one or two parents and their children
- To have selected something from several possibilities
- Assurance that something will be done as promised; to make certain
- To take into one's family and raise as one's own child

GUARANTEE	FAMILY	TRUST	FREEDOM	UNCHANGING
INHERITANCE	PLAN	CHOSE	ADOPT	KINDNESS



Focus on 2 Samuel 6:1–5, 12b–19

WHAT is important to know?

— From “Exegetical Perspective,” Carol J. Dempsey

The ark of God was a box made of acacia wood, with dimensions of approximately 4 by 2½ by 2½ feet (Exod. 25:10–22; 37:1–9), that was built by the Israelites during the wilderness period. Closely associated with God’s presence, the ark traditionally contained the tables of the law given to Moses, although the function of the ark may have changed more than once throughout Israel’s history. Eventually, it would reside in the Holy of Holies within the Jerusalem temple. The founding of a new shrine around the ark (v. 17) symbolizes a new regime and a new time in Israel’s history. David is now recognized as the legitimate king.

WHERE is God in these words?

— From “Theological Perspective,” Miguel A. De La Torre

The text tells us that once the rejoicing ended, King David distributed among the people a roll of bread, a portion of dates (or meat), and a raisin cake. Worship—no matter how exuberant it may be—absent praxis (action) is worthless. King David, the richest and most powerful man in the land, understood he had an obligation to those around him. Like Jesus centuries later, he fed the multitudes. While not everyone in the crowd was poor, no doubt many were. The food provided needed nourishment.

SO WHAT does this mean for our lives?

— From “Pastoral Perspective,” David G. Forney

Liturgically, this passage invites us to think about the ways in which we praise God with joyful abandon. The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving, which many traditions say at the Lord’s Table, tells of God’s salvation story for humanity and points to the glad feast that is to come. Even though we are not there yet, we do have seasons of rejoicing when we can dance as if no one is watching. We might be surprised by how contagious it might be. So, as Hafiz, the great Sufi poet, counsels, “Cast all your votes for dancing.”

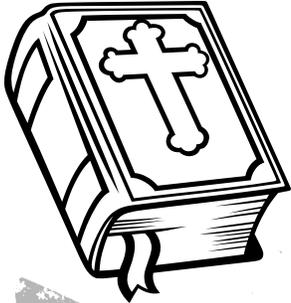
NOW WHAT is God’s word calling us to do?

— From “Theological Perspective,”

Miguel A. De La Torre

Dancing before God may provide space for a deep spiritual connection with the Author of the universe; but true worship is to seek justice, to physically—not solely spiritually—feed the hungry. There is something theologically wrong with those who ignore the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the alien, the incarcerated, and the infirm. Creative worship expressions may provide a sense of being close to God; but only when we touch the oppressed and dispossessed do we actually touch God. That which we do to the very least of these, we do unto God. Dancing is always fun; nevertheless, it is in the doing of justice that we get to enter into God’s presence. Then we have something to dance about.

2 Samuel and David: An Overview



The focus scriptures for today and for next Sunday come from the Old Testament book of 2 Samuel. The books of Samuel are named after (not written by) the last judge—and in some considerations, the first prophet—of Israel. Though Samuel initially opposed the desire of the Israelite tribes to have a king (1 Samuel 8:4–6), he went on to anoint Saul (9:27–10:1). Samuel would later anoint a young shepherd named David (1 Samuel 16), which was a bit problematic, seeing as how the current King Saul still reigned. First Samuel 25:1 offers a terse report of Samuel’s death, clinching the truth that someone other than Samuel compiled these materials.

The book of 2 Samuel begins with David grieving the death of Saul and his son Jonathan in chapter 1. In chapters 2–4, David’s story becomes complicated. One complication has to do with royal succession. While David was anointed king of Judah in the south, one of Saul’s sons named Ishbaal had been anointed by the tribes of Israel in the north. Another complication, related to this first one, is that one of David’s wives, Michal, was a daughter of Saul and thus sister of the rival king. Chapter 4 ends with the assassination of Ishbaal and David’s execution of the assassins for acting without his consent. Even so, the rift between David and the family of Saul (including David’s wife, Michal) had been sealed.

Second Samuel 5 begins with David’s anointing in Hebron, the northern city that had been Israel’s capital under Saul and Ishbaal. Verse 5 of this chapter indicates that David reigned from Hebron for seven years before making a decisive move to seize a Jebusite stronghold named Jerusalem (5:6ff). It should be noted that the ark, which David now undertakes to bring to his new capital of Jerusalem, had actually been in northern Israel’s possession for twenty years without being moved (1 Samuel 7:1).

One final note regards the Hebrew word *bayith*. Most often translated “house,” it also has broader meanings. In 2 Samuel 7:16, *bayith* references not only the household but suggests the dynasty of David. In 1 and 2 Kings, *bayith* signifies “temple”—in particular, the temple in Jerusalem. So when you encounter “house” in these focus scriptures, be mindful of the broader religious and political connotations of this word.