

# 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*

*It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High. Psalm 92:1*

Congregational Newsletter for the weekend of June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Worship Focus: God’s “Mustard Seed” sized love!

### *Greetings Friends in Christ:*

Some 16 months ago things changed. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic initiated changes that we would have never imagined just a couple years ago. Age old routines were changed, ways to communicate and stay involved with the lives of one another were transformed, the simple things we once did so easily became complicated. We changed, and yet essentials in our life, our family, our faith, remained steadfast in the way that God has created. The love and grace of Christ has been evident in our lives as vividly as ever.

A part of this Sunday’s Gospel reading finds Jesus offering a parable. Mark 4:26-27 says: “A farmer scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether the farmer sleeps or is awake, the seed sprouts and grows, though the farmer does not know how.” It seems that God’s deepest love, kindness and mercy found in the grace of Jesus Christ are much like the farmer’s knowledge of what makes a seed grow. So much of it is a mystery, and yet the evidence of the harvest speaks of the miracle itself.

More and more of our community are being vaccinated. The devastating effects of the virus are decreasing. Our region of the world is again looking to revisit activities, experiences, and events that were paused for these months. As we plan for our next steps ahead, may we remain steadfast and committed in our love for one another, in our common understanding of God’s love that Jesus enacted “for the least of these” that remains our mandate and our calling in faith, and may the miracle of God’s presence that grows a seed, births a child, and fosters amazing grace during a pandemic be revealed in each day before us.

Throughout the next weeks the CMC leadership of Executive Board and Fellowship of Elders will continue to assess the Alberta Provincial Guidelines as they pertain to our congregational life and begin strategic plans for the next stages. The online worship services are planned for the next months. The CMC leadership is very grateful for all the folks offering prayerful, loving support for the church during these pivotal days. Watch for further announcements of CMC activities and events as the next weeks unfold.

With summertime joy,  
Pastor Steve Gohdes

### Upcoming Events

**“Bible Buddies”  
meet again on  
Sunday June 13<sup>th</sup>  
at 9:00 am  
Zoom details are  
on the Events page**

**Wed. June 16<sup>th</sup>  
Executive Board  
meets via Zoom  
at 7:00 pm**

**Elder’s meeting  
via Zoom on  
Friday June 18<sup>th</sup>  
at 2:00 pm**

**Sunday June 20<sup>th</sup>  
is  
Father’s Day**

For more information, visit our website @

[www.christmoravian.com](http://www.christmoravian.com)

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## *What's Happening!*

### *Personal Worship Retreat Response*

Thank you to all that offered insights and reflections from the “Personal Worship Retreat” weekend. Several of those responses have been woven into this Sunday’s worship service and others have given ideas for future worship expressions.

### *Coming Soon! CMC Variety Show Fundraiser!*

It’s time to sing! It’s time to laugh! It’s time to smile or wipe away a happy tear! The CMC Summer Variety Show will soon be released through our normal video channels. Thanks to the many folks who pitched in, especially the behind-the-scenes individuals. Once again, a reminder that this is a fundraiser in support of the upcoming “Live Streaming” expenses needed for sharing the worship services and other activities online into the future.

### *Summer Camp Opportunities!*

#### *Camp Van Es News*

Rev. James Lavoy is pleased to announce camp plans for this summer. Check out registration news on the attachment included with this e-mail.

#### *Van Es Elementary Day Camps - Lunch Helpers Needed*

No hair net needed, but you should have both vaccination shots.

July 4 to 9 – Calgary – Fish Creek Provincial Park

July 12 to 16 – Van Es Camp & Conference Centre

Helpers needed to prepare lunches and snacks for summers camps.

If you can help for a week, a day or even a few hours,

contact Lynne Hennig at 403 816-6743 or [lynne@tuscanysystems.com](mailto:lynne@tuscanysystems.com)

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

<https://forms.gle/anCCFhTzvyUaZ8s48>

### *Our Daily Bread*

If you wish to have a copy of the “Bread for the Journey” devotional mailed to you, please let us know in the office.

### **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. Another option is that you may contact the church office by e-mail at [moravian@nucleus.com](mailto: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

## David is Anointed King

1 Samuel 16:1-13

### Word Search

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

APPEARANCE	SAMUEL	CHOSEN	HEART	PEACE
REJECTED	DAVID	SHEPHERD	ANOINT	LORD
SAUL	ISRAEL	SACRIFICE	KING	JESSE

Christ Moravian Church  
 Calgary, Alberta

## Multiple Choice

From the words provided for each clue, write the letter of the word which best matches the clue.

- Distance from the top to the bottom of something; how tall someone is  
 A. WIDTH B. HEIGHT C. APPEARANCE D. ANOINT
- The way people seem to be, rather than how they are inside  
 A. HEIGHT B. APPEARANCE C. POWER D. HEART
- A man who rules a country  
 A. DAVID B. KING C. SAMUEL D. JESSE
- Strength, energy, or force  
 A. HEIGHT B. POWER C. SAMUEL D. APPEARANCE
- To make someone holy by pouring oil on their head  
 A. ANOINT B. HEIGHT C. KING D. HEART
- The Prophet that God instructed to go Jesse's house in search of the new king  
 A. DAVID B. SAUL C. SAMUEL D. JESSE
- The one that God chose to replace Saul as king  
 A. SAMUEL B. JESSE C. DAVID D. ANOINT
- The organ that pumps blood through the body  
 A. HEIGHT B. POWER C. APPEARANCE D. HEART

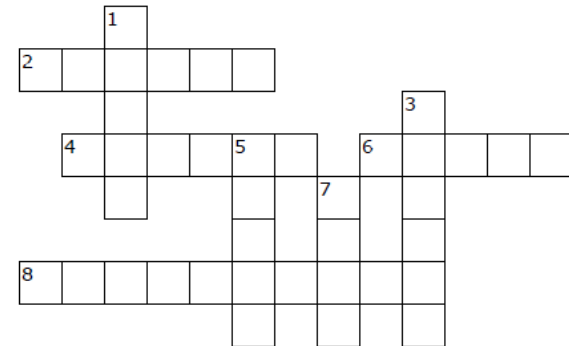


# Coloring Page



The LORD does not look at the things man looks at.  
 Man looks at the outward appearance,  
 but the LORD looks at the heart."  
 1 Samuel 16:7 (NIV)

# Crossword Puzzle



## ACROSS

2. To make someone holy by pouring oil on their head
4. Distance from the top to the bottom of something; how tall someone is
6. The one that God chose to replace Saul as king
8. The way people seem to be, rather than how they are inside

## DOWN

1. Strength, energy, or force
3. The Prophet that God instructed to go Jesse's house in search of the new king
5. The center of a person's emotions or the organ that pumps blood through the body
7. A man who rules a country

APPEARANCE	ANOINT	POWER	HEART
SAMUEL	KING	HEIGHT	DAVID



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## Focus on Mark 4:26–34

### WHAT is important to know?

— From “Exegetical Perspective,” Judith Hoch Wray

*Verse 28.* The earth produces “of itself” (*automatē*, from which we derive “automatic”). In the OT and later Jewish texts, the term referred to that which was worked by God alone, without human effort. An ongoing theological debate among Jewish and Christian thinkers has continued from Jesus’ time until now: Does the coming of the final redemption depend on God’s will alone, or does human effort make a difference? Mark asserts that while humans are called to “sow” or to “scatter the seed,” the growth is completely up to God. The fulfillment comes in stages—first . . . , then . . . , then . . . For now, the one who scatters does not understand the process and can only wait patiently.

### WHERE is God in these words?

— From “Theological Perspective,” Wendy Farley

Our difficulty arises in confusing the way of the kingdom with our ordinary way of doing things. Jesus is calling us to a very different way of being with ourselves, with one another, with the divine, by asking us to recognize that spiritual growth and intimacy with God arises as naturally as seeds growing. The harvest will come without us having to work for it, because God adores us and it is this love that is the power of growth. It is this love that transforms the tiniest and most impotent-looking seed into a lush bush that gives rest and shade to the singing birds.

### SO WHAT does this mean for our lives?

— From “Pastoral Perspective,” Don E. Saliers

We do well to continue pondering the inexhaustible range of meanings these stories of Jesus about the kingdom generate. The saving act of God in Jesus Christ remains both revealed and veiled to us in this life, just as it remained so for the first communities. To follow this teller of parables is to become alive to all the paradoxes and the tensions of his life and death: goodness appears in human form, and human powers are threatened; yet death leads to life. We struggle to understand while yet standing under the signs of God’s offer of life.

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

— From “Homiletical Perspective,”

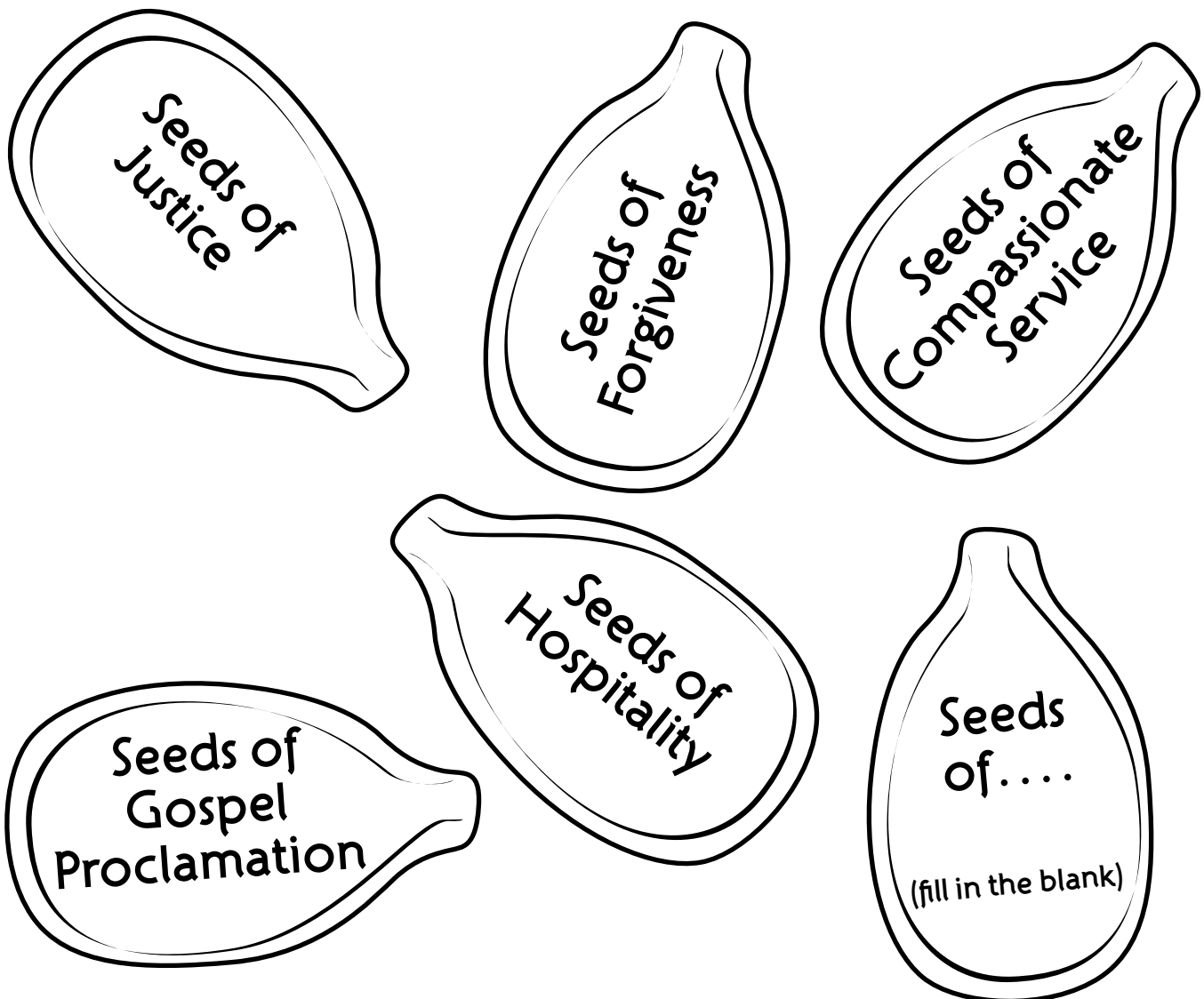
*Nibs Stroupe*

There is also an emphasis on the mystery and surprise of God. We live in an age when the mystery and surprise of all of life, including God’s power, are being squeezed out of our consciousness. This parable asks us not to close our imaginations too quickly, because there is a dynamic, vital power that is mysteriously beyond our comprehension and our grasp. In this parable, Jesus suggests that history has been made ready, just as fields are readied to be planted. The world has been made ready, and now God’s reign has burst on the stage of history in the life of Jesus.

## Sowing Seeds of God's Reign

Jesus uses the imagery of seeds in both of today's parables to provide insights into the reign of God. The first parable in particular bids patient expectation that exercises trust in God's often unseen workings to bring the growth of that reign. But make no mistake: the parable does *not* make patient expectation equivalent to twiddling our thumbs and doing nothing in the meantime. We respond to the God whose reign unfolds in mysterious ways by sowing seeds that witness to and embody the qualities of that reign. We do not force the growth God brings—rather, our lives participate in that growth by living now in the light of that reign.

Imagine what seeds of God's reign might you sow.



Friends:

I am thrilled to announce that summer camps will be running at Van Es this year, though in a modified form. I will be sending out promotional materials shortly, but I ask that this registration form and basic details be distributed throughout your congregation.

We will meet and, where appropriate, *exceed* provincial Covid-19 physical distancing guidelines.

Please direct any questions to me.

**Elementary Grades Day Camp | Calgary - July 5-9**

Completed Kindergarten - Grade 5

Location: Fish Creek Provincial Park, Calgary

Leaders: Rev. Steve Gohdes and Rev. James Lavoy

**Elementary Grades Day Camp | Edmonton - July 12-16**

Completed Kindergarten - Grade 5

Location: Camp Van Es, Strathcona County

Leaders: Marilyn Gurnsey and Rev. James Lavoy

**Jr/Sr High Overnight Camp | Edmonton - July 18-24**

Completed Grade 6 - Completed Grade 11

Location: Camp Van Es, Strathcona County

Leaders: Rev. Matt Gillard, Rev. Aaron Linville, and Rev. James Lavoy

**Post-High/20 Somethings Weekend Retreat - July 16-18**

Ages 18-29

Location: Camp Van Es, Strathcona County

Lodging in Unity Lodge

*\*\*note: registration for Post-High is not yet live.\*\**

**REGISTRATION HERE:**

<https://forms.gle/4jCPj8iBNvgWUQK6A>

Blessings,  
James

Rev. **James Lavoy** *He/Him*  
Rio Terrace Church (Moravian) | pastor  
& Van Es Camp | executive director  
Edmonton, AB