

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

Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications! Psalm 130:2

Congregational Newsletter for the weekend of June 6th, 2021

Worship Focus: "A Personal Worship Experience"

Greetings Friends in Christ:

The month of June has arrived with the realization that for the second year the World-Famous CMC Garage Sale has been put on hold due to health restrictions. I look forward to next year's fabulous event with cheerful volunteers, sunny weather inside and outside of the tent, lively conversations and fellowship, and baked goodies, bbq'd brats and burgers galore, and the love of God shared around the CMC grounds like never before! As for today, God is so good with the kindness, love and peace continually known in the life of the body of Christ.

Last week I laid out the invitation and instructions to have a "Personal Worship Retreat or Experience" during this weekend. A number of you have already emailed me and phoned in some of your personal plans for this worship time. As I had believed, we all have some favourite songs, Scripture readings, and thoughtful prayers that are a part of our ongoing devotional life. This offers each of us to explore those faith discoveries that may have been on hold for some time.

Just to note, this week's selected readings in the lectionary calendar include:

- Psalm 138 A psalm of praise for many of God's gifts.
- 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 The Apostle teaching about spiritual renewal.
- Mark 3:20-35 This Gospel concludes by saying..."whoever does God's will is the brother or sister or mother of Jesus".

Each of these readings may nicely guide each of us to know God's message of grace, hope, and love more deeply. Just a reminder that I'd love to hear from folks about a word, a phrase, a sentence of insight that is brought to you during your time of reflection.

Thanks.

Pastor Gohdes

Upcoming Events

The Men's Breakfast Group
meets via Zoom
at 8:30 am on
Saturday June 5th

"Bible Buddies"
meet again on
Sunday June 6th
@ 9:00 am
Zoom details are
on the Events page

Wed. June 16th
Executive Board
meets via Zoom
@ 7:00 pm

Sunday June 20th
is
Father's Day

For more information, visit our website @

www.christmoravian.com

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June 6th, 2021

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Congregational News!

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CMC Variety Show Fundraiser!

The excitement grows to enjoy a great show of CMC music, comedy, laughter, and smiles as the CMC Variety Show debuts soon. This is a fund raiser activity with proceeds to support the resources needed to "stream live services" at CMC when we re-gather and step forward into the new tomorrow of worship life. The Variety Show will be offered through the regular email/website platforms in which the worship videos are offered.

Virtual Memorial Service for Melba Doreen Holm

The virtual Memorial Service for Melba Holm (Garnet Holm's mother) can be attended on Wednesday June 9 at 1:00pm by going to the Speers Funeral Service Website below.

<https://speersfuneralchapel.com/tribute/details/10679/Melba-Holm/obituary.html#tribute-start>

This service was partially video-taped at the Christ Church Sanctuary to be offered on Wednesday June 9th.

Thanks to Video Editor: Steve Blackwell, and Musician: Marty Antonini for assisting in this special service.

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.

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.

Virtual Youth Convo Plans

You are invited to join in on a Youth and Young Adult Event from the Jamaican, Northern, and Southern Provinces of the Moravian Church for Youth and Young Adults ages 14 to 34.

When: Saturday, June 12th, 2021 from 3-6 PM EDT, 2-5 PM Jamaican Time

Theme: Joshua Generation: Like, Follow, Share

Keynote Speaker - Bishop Hopeton Clennon, Senior Pastor, Central Moravian Church, Bethlehem, PA

Hosted by - Rev. Shantol Davy - Christian Educator, Department of Education, Mission and Youth Minister at Four Paths Moravian Church, Clarendon, Jamaica and **Rev. Cynthia Geyer** - Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Eastern District of the Northern Province.

Worship Leader: Rev. Marsha Edwards-Brown, Minister, Redeemer Moravian Church, Kingston, Jamaica

Join via Zoom with youth and young adults from across Jamaica and North America as we discuss our Biblical call to leadership and mission service. How can you find ways to engage in your community and around the world? How are you equipped? How will you do more than simply "like what you hear" in scripture, but instead, take it further by "following" and "sharing" these important lessons?

Register here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScObupkzUGV4XaFPK4PAeDbzNLy8pnSmXaJ2NJVv2fxVR3AuQ/viewform>

Event Website:

<https://www.moravian.org/mission/2021/05/03/join-in-on-a-joint-bwm-jamaican-province-online-youth-and-young-adult-event/>

In addition to engaging with the speakers there will be small group discussion, games, and other opportunities to connect virtually.

Please register today so we can plan for this great event! After you register you will be sent the Zoom link information.

For more information please contact Chris Giesler using the information below.

Peace in Christ, Chris

The Rt. Rev. J. Christian Giesler

Director of Mission Engagement, Board of World Mission of the Moravian Church in North America

1021 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA 18018

chris@moravianmission.org

484-221-5489

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 [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...

600 Acadia Drive SE, Calgary, AB T2J 0B8

403-271-2700

moravian@nucleus.com

Children's Worship Bulletin

Coloring Page

Who Me? Not Me!

Genesis 3:8-15

Word Search Puzzle

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

SERPENT
EAT
HID

DECEIVED
WALKING
MAN

HEARD
GARDEN
WIFE

TREE
GOD
WOMAN

FRUIT
AFRAID
NAKED

Adam and Eve are Tempted
Genesis 3:8-15



Christ Moravian Church
Calgary, Alberta

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Decoder Puzzle

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet.
Substitute the correct letter for the numbers.

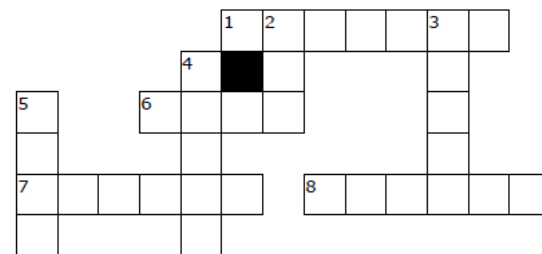
X	R	H	A	L	T	P	D	Y	Z	O	Q	E	G	V	B	U	M	I	J	F	W	K	S	C	N
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 18-4-26 _____
- 22-11-18-4-26 _____
- 14-4-2-8-13-26 _____
- 6-2-13-13 _____
- 21-2-17-19-6 _____
- 24-13-2-7-13-26-6 _____
- 26-4-23-13-8 _____
- 4-21-2-4-19-8 _____

MAN	FRUIT	NAKED	AFRAID
WOMAN	GARDEN	SERPENT	TREE



Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. A snake
6. A tall, woody plant with a main trunk and branches with leaves
7. To be filled with fear
8. An area where flowers, fruits, or vegetables grow

DOWN

2. The first woman
3. Not wearing any clothes
4. The product from a tree that can be eaten (apples, oranges)
5. The first man

EVE	SERPENT	FRUIT	NAKED
GARDEN	AFRAID	ADAM	TREE



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Focus on Mark 3:20–35

WHAT is important to know?

— From “Exegetical Perspective,” Judith Hoch Wray

Jesus’ family serves as a literary tool to introduce several key themes. The antecedent of the pronoun translated as “people” (v. 21) in the NRSV is unclear, and probably indicates Jesus’ family as the ones who were saying, “He has gone out of his mind.” “Out of his mind” is literally, “he has stood outside.” (Compare today’s idiom, “he is really out of it,” or the RSV “beside himself.”) The question of who is *outside* arises again and again. In verse 31 the family is standing outside, in contrast to their saying in verse 21 that he “has gone outside,” that is, out of his mind.

WHERE is God in these words?

— From “Theological Perspective,” Wendy Farley

If we transpose this theological vision into our own time, instead of lepers and demoniacs crowding around Jesus, we might see the strange bodies of the disabled. The only ones not in the picture, the ones not pressing in at the doors and windows, desperate and aching to be near Jesus, are the ones who think they know what religion and family life is supposed to look like. Jesus, infinitely patient with the crowd, blasts away at these people. Everyone will be forgiven, except people who blaspheme the Holy Spirit. The inability to tell the difference between the power of the Holy Spirit and the demonic is an *unforgivable sin*.

SO WHAT does this mean for our lives?

— From “Pastoral Perspective,” Don E. Saliers

For us, however, the issue is how we now understand the relationship between discipleship and Christology. More than simply “understand” intellectually, it seems crucial for the churches today to seek to live out that understanding. Living out the form of discipleship Christ bids us follow means a new solidarity with all of humanity. It requires that we learn with him to weep with those who weep and to rejoice with those who rejoice. It asks us to live into the densities of human joy and suffering. It calls us to find ourselves precisely in our willingness to give up our self-absorption. This is a demanding task, requiring a willingness to follow him into a new solidarity with God’s whole family.

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

— From “Homiletical Perspective,”

Nibs Stroupe

We should look for the reality signified by the name “Satan.” Satan does not necessarily mean a personality with horns and a red tail, but it does name a demonic power that is actively engaged against the compassionate and reconciling love of God. This is the reality that Jesus names here, and whether we believe in a person named “Satan” is not as important as hearing about our captivity to the powers of evil signified by “Satan,” powers that continue to seek our allegiance.

Hallmarks of Mark

A Gospel of Action

The Gospel of Mark is distinguished, particularly in its first half, by an almost continuous series of actions by Jesus that demonstrate Mark's theme announced in the Gospel's first verse: "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ." There are no extended theological discourses as in John's Gospel. While there are parables in Mark, they do not compare in number to those found in Matthew or Luke.

A Gospel of Power and Authority

Mark explores what power and authority make Jesus' actions possible. Jesus' teaching is viewed as uniquely authoritative (1:22). His power over demonic forces, who themselves confess him to be the Holy One of God, stirs recognition of Jesus' power among the crowds (1:27). The narrative of Jesus' stilling the storm (4:35–41) witnesses to the power of God at work through Jesus. Such power as Jesus exercises, however, is not coercively forced on others. Unbelief creates a hurdle for what even the power and authority of Jesus can do (6:1–6).

A Gospel of Controversy

Mark's "beginning of the good news" is constantly beset with controversy and conflict with would-be recipients. Barely midway through the second chapter, Jesus offends religious authorities by consorting with those dismissed as sinners (2:16). Far from attempting to smooth over ruffled feathers, Jesus exacerbates the situation by a retort to their rebuke of him (2:17). Confrontations over Sabbath keeping quickly result in a conspiracy of some religious leaders to destroy Jesus (3:6).

A Gospel of Urgency

In Mark's Gospel, things often happen "immediately." Literally. The Spirit *immediately* drives Jesus into the wilderness following baptism (1:12). When Jesus calls Simon and Andrew, they *immediately* leave their nets and follow (1:17–18). When Jesus touches and speaks to a leper, the disease leaves the victim *immediately* (1:42). "Immediately" conveys a sense of urgency to this Gospel, and the response evoked by the "beginning of the gospel" that is Mark's theme.

A Gospel Open-Ended

Mark leaves much untold. There are no birth narratives. There are no sermons on mounts or plains. But most significantly, according to the oldest manuscripts, the Easter narrative in Mark ends abruptly—"and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid" (16:8). These accounts leave it to the reader and hearer to decide how Easter ends—that is, how the opening verse's "beginning of the good news" finds its way out into the world, if at all.

Take this last theme as the starting point for your entry into Mark. In the passages you will encounter this session, what ending is yet to be written—not by disciples of long ago, but by you, and the people in your group? How will you engage in the actions, and face the controversies, and rely on the power, and respond to the urgency, of the "beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ?"

The Gospel of Mark

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