

May 30th, 2021

Christ Moravian Church

Trintiy Sunday

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

Congregational Newsletter for the weekend of May 30th, 2021

Worship Focus: “Pentecost/Trinity Sunday- God’s Spirit Creates a Church”



Dear Friends in Christ:

We have been on an amazing and challenging journey. Every once in a while I get re-awakened to what has occurred in these past 15-16 months. In continuing to be a community of faith, as a church a miraculous relationship has seen us through these trying and anxious days. The relationship God shares in the love of Jesus Christ. Last week the Pentecost Sunday Celebration of the birth of the church will be emphasized in this coming week’s worship video (thanks for your understanding that allows us to revisit a worship service like last week’s “Singing Service”).

I sense that all of us have clung to or been centered by some key faith beliefs throughout these past months. Often in a difficult time a Scripture text becomes a living testament to us. For me, it has been the words of Jesus offered to the listening followers saying- “The greatest commandment is to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. And a second is like it: Love your neighbor as you are loved.” At so many moments I have reflected on Christ’s emphasis of these commands. When the “mask” issues continued to arise, I searched Jesus’ words to realize how much love God has afforded me, and as such wearing a simple mask so such a small thing in offering love to a neighbor or a stranger. As we’ve struggled with re-opening the church facility at the various stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, the leadership of CMC has continued to be centered on the “love your neighbor” command. And in these times of discernment and questioning God has revealed amazing blessings that have revitalized us to take more steps forward with hope. New friends are joining us in worship through the virtual worship experience, as it becomes clear that Christ is speaking a message of love, peace and hope through our on-line services. Friends have continued to phone each other, visit each other on driveways, or keep the email messages of love flowing so freely.

We will move faithfully into the future as more and more are vaccinated “in loving a neighbor as one is loved”. And we will return to in-person worship experiences as time moves forward. I find myself even more strongly convinced that the “love your neighbor as you are loved” belief in faith has been active throughout CMC’s life and the wider community.

Keep your prayerful love to neighbor, friend, stranger, and beloved family at the heart of your faith. As the Holy Spirit moved to enflame the early church it realized its mandate would be to foster love in all relationships and share this love as freely as God would empower.

We are all watching the next weeks and months of re-opening and re-launching with hopeful anticipation. In our watchfulness let us continue to be a community where we know “Love in All Things”

Shalom,
Pastor Gohdes

Upcoming Events

**“Bible Buddies”
meet again on
Sunday May 30th
@ 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

continued on page 2



Moravian Daily Text Watchword for the Week

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.

Isaiah 6:3

Check Out These Activities!

Van Es Piano Bar - TONIGHT

There's still time to sign up for the Van Es Piano Bar starting this coming Friday at 7 pm. Buy a ticket or make a donation and you will be sent a link to the private You Tube channel. Tax receipts will be issued for donations \$25 and over (your ticket is considered a donation). Proceeds will be used for summer camp equipment and camp scholarships. Once logged on, you can chat with Matt, our piano player and others signed on. To get a ticket or make a donation go to

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/the-van-es-online-piano-bar-tickets-155969259253>

Thanks for supporting Van Es!

Stay Healthy,

Randy Downing, Business Manager, Van Es Camp & Conference Centre

van-escamp@shaw.ca

780-922-2457

www.van-es.ca

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

If anyone would like a copy of "Our Daily Bread" for June, July and August sent to them, please contact the church office at 403-271-2700 or e-mail me at moravian@nucleus.com

Andrea

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. Or you can contact the church office by e-mail at moravian@nucleus.com with any questions or communication. If you require assistance to get your COVID-19 vaccine, 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.

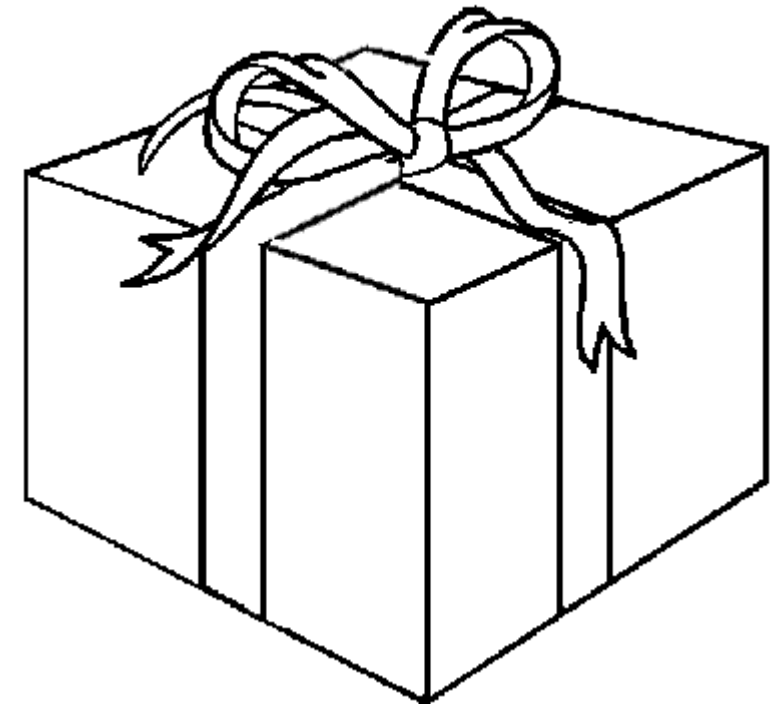
In All Things Love...

The Greatest Gift of All

John 3:14-17

Word Search Puzzle

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



The greatest gift of all!

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16 (NIV)

WORLD	THROUGH	GAVE	BELIEVES	SEND
SON	ETERNAL	GOD	PERISH	HIM
ONLY	LOVED	CONDEMN	WHOEVER	SAVE
SNAKE	MOSES	LIFTED	DESERT	LIFE

*Christ Moravian Church
Calgary, Alberta*

Decoder Puzzle

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

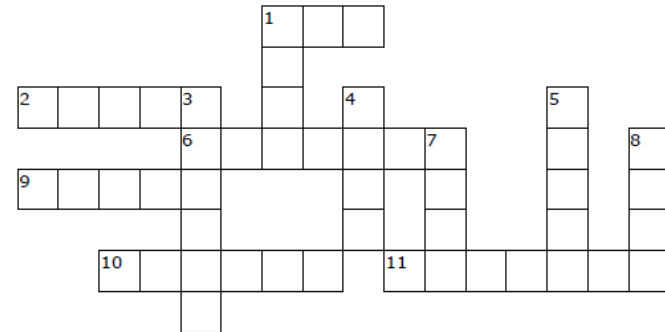
E	Q	M	R	N	T	L	B	J	F	I	V	P	Z	Y	K	W	H	C	X	G	D	A	S	U	O
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 21-26-22 _____
- 7-26-12-1-22 _____
- 17-26-4-7-22 _____
- 21-23-12-1 _____
- 24-26-5 _____
- 17-18-26-1-12-1-4 _____
- 8-1-7-11-1-12-1-24 _____
- 13-1-4-11-24-18 _____
- 1-6-1-4-5-23-7 _____
- 7-11-10-1 _____

WORLD	WHOEVER	PERISH	GOD	GAVE
ETERNAL	SON	BELIEVES	LOVED	LIFE



Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- A male child
- The earth with its inhabitants and all things upon it
- Lasting forever, without end
- Received the ten commandments from God
- To die or be destroyed
- To accept something as true, genuine, or real

DOWN

- To rescue from danger or harm
- Hot, dry area of land with few trees or plants
- Alone in its kind, nothing like it
- A serpent or reptile)
- To care very deeply for someone
- The period of time from birth to death

BELIEVE	SON	ONLY	WORLD
ETERNAL	DESERT	PERISH	SAVE
LOVE	SNAKE	MOSES	LIFE



Focus on John 3:1–17

WHAT is important to know?

— From “*Exegetical Perspective*,” Paul L. Hammer

In the other three Gospels, love language is rather sparse. In the Gospel of John, love language occurs more than forty times. Its use in our text probably is the most familiar of all NT texts. “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.” God’s intention is never to condemn but to save, that is, to make life whole. Salvation language is health language, God’s health for all the world in all of life’s relationships. That love is ever constant, but never coercive. It is invitational and hopes for a response, to complete the circle of love and share in the interconnectedness of the creating, liberating, healing Holy Trinity.

WHERE is God in these words?

— From “*Theological Perspective*,” Randall C. Zachman

Jesus goes on to teach Nicodemus more fully about the birth from above, which is based entirely on what God is doing in him. Even as Jesus comes from God and speaks what he knows of God, so Jesus is returning to God, but only by being lifted up on the cross. The birth from above will take place by faith in the death of the Son of Man, which is even more paradoxical than birth by the freely given wind of the Spirit. Faith receives eternal life from the death of the Son of Man, because in it is found the self-giving love of God for the world.

SO WHAT does this mean for our lives?

— From “*Pastoral Perspective*,”

Emmanuel Y. Lartey

God’s desire in sending God’s Son is not condemnatory. Rather, it is redemptive. The whole mission and purpose of God in Christ is to rescue and recover humanity, from being deeply embedded in self-defeating pursuits in a physically absorbed life. God in Christ wishes to reclaim, rename, and reauthor the stories of our lives with a new life empowered by the grace of God and made manifest in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. All of this is accomplished by the creative love of God, the redemptive offering of Christ, and the empowering presence of the life-giving Spirit. And these Three are One.

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

— From “*Homiletical Perspective*,”

Judith M. McDaniel

God searches for us to complete the revelation of God’s being. God searches for us to participate in God’s life. God’s seeking is not brought about by our circumstance, our worthiness, our sufficient understanding. Rather, that seeking derives from the anguish of God, God’s longing for the work of God’s hands. God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world God created might be saved. So how might we live in that kingdom where life is reborn?

God's Redemptive Purpose

"Eternal life" is not just an extension of life. It is a spiritual, transformative quality of life that transcends this physical life.

1. What aspects of my life need to come alive through God's creative power?

2. What deeply embedded practices or habits in my life need Christ's redemptive power?

3. What old wounds from my past need to be renamed for the Spirit to work healing power?

Write or draw an image that expresses your understanding of the interconnectedness of the creating, redeeming, and healing Trinity.

