

April 11th, 2021

Joy & Laughter Sunday

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 Watchword for the Week: April 11th, 2021

“If we walk in the light as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”

1 John 1:7



Pastoral Newsletter for the weekend of April 11th, 2021

Sunday Worship Focus: “Joy & Laughter Sunday”

Greetings Friends in Christ:

One of my recent devotional resources highlighted the experience from certain Christian groups and circles that Easter Monday, and Easter Tuesday, and the many days after Easter are even more significant than Easter Sunday itself. The emphasis is found in the reality that on Easter Monday and Tuesday and beyond, we really have to start living the experience of faith that is celebrated as Jesus is risen beyond the empty tomb. These days after Easter are even more paramount in expressing our faith that God is rising in new life within each of our days and experiences.

The worship emphasis this Sunday is the yearly special service of “Joy and Laughter Sunday”. You will find a joyous, light-hearted atmosphere that speaks to the amazing reality of God initiating a joke on the presence of death, sin, and brokenness by the presence of the risen Christ. May this weekend following the Easter celebration lead us all to know the fullness of joy and the gladness of laughter as Jesus meets us with smiles and giggles beyond the tomb.

Here’s a light-hearted prayer prepared by United Church Pastor, Gord Dunbar of Burlington, Ontario.

***Chuckling, chortling God,
Who lifts our hearts when we feel most down,
Who strikes the light of joy in the midst of despair’s gloom,
Who surprises us with wonder and awe...
Enter our hearts this day we pray.
Open our minds to the endless possibilities you create for
growing closer to you with a giggle.
Open our eyes to your presence in all things,
allowing us to respond in joy. Amen.***

God’s joyful peace be unto you all,
Pastor Steve Gohdes

Upcoming Events

Bible Buddies
Sunday April 11th
@ 9:00 am
Zoom details are on the Events page

April 16th
Elders’ meeting
Via Zoom
@ 2:00 pm

April 21st
Executive Board meeting
Via Zoom
@ 7:00 pm

April 27th
District Dialogue
Group meets
Via Zoom
@ 7:00 pm

For more information, visit our website @

www.christmoravian.com

continued on page 2



Worship Will Continue Online into the Future!

We have all seen the staggering number of cases of COVID-19 recently, and CMC leadership has recognized the need to continue to offer online worship service into the future. At such a time as it is reasonable and safe to begin gathering in person, the Executive Board will assist in making those decisions and plans. Until then, do stay safe and get in line for the vaccination for COVID-19.

Suggest a Favourite Hymn!

In continuing to include the voices and ideas of the congregation in our virtual worship experience, you are invited to suggest a favourite hymn or worship song. Our worship planning team will endeavor to find a special Sunday to include these songs and add your ideas to the planning of worship. Email your suggestion to: moravian@nucleus.com or Phone the church office at 403-271-2700. Help us make a joyful sound unto the Lord!

75th Anniversary of Moravian Clinic in Ahuas, Honduras

We will include an additional email offering information to the upcoming celebration of the Moravian Clinic in Ahuas, Honduras on May 1st at 1:00 pm MDT.

Moravian Music Festival Info

Check out the opportunities for the upcoming Moravian Music Festival to be offered virtually this year. A link can be found on the Worship & Event links page.

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 NEED ASSISTANCE in getting registered or traveling to your Vaccination location, please contact us at the church office and a volunteer will assist.**
- Indranie Perera continues to receive recycling for support of Sri Lanka. Sincere thanks to all who contribute to this worthwhile cause.
- Donations are still being collected for the Acadia Food Pantry. If you're able to assist, or perhaps volunteer some time, please contact Donna Gordon for details.

In All Things Love...

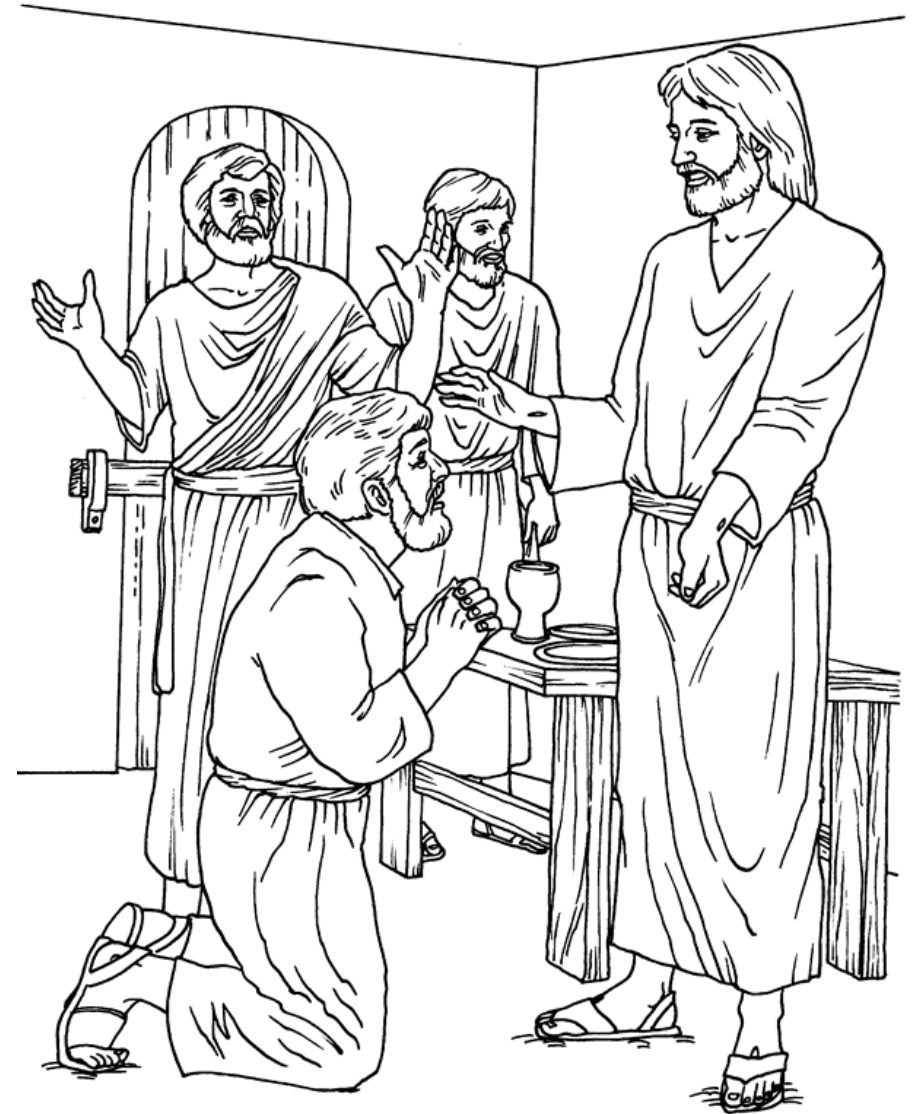
Seeing Is Believing

John 20:19-31

Word Search Puzzle

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

THOMAS	DISCIPLES	DOORS	MIRACLES	TOUCHED
HANDS	TOGETHER	DOUBTING	SHOWED	SIGNS
SIDE	RECORDED	BELIEVED	JESUS	LOCKED



Jesus Appears!

Decoder Puzzle

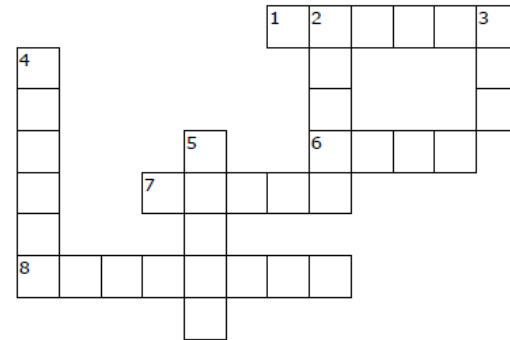
K	I	A	F	C	M	D	W	B	G	Z	X	N	U	S	L	T	Q	Y	O	H	J	R	P	E	V
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 7-2-15-5-2-24-16-25-15 _____
- 7-20-20-23-15 _____
- 16-20-5-1-25-7 _____
- 21-3-13-7-15 _____
- 15-2-7-25 _____
- 17-21-20-6-3-15 _____
- 7-20-14-9-17-2-13-10 _____
- 17-20-14-5-21-25-7 _____
- 9-25-16-2-25-26-25-7 _____
- 7-2-15-5-2-24-16-25-15 _____

DOUBTING	DISCIPLES	LOCKED	SIDE	DISCIPLES
TOUCHED	HANDS	DOORS	THOMAS	BELIEVED



Crossword Puzzle



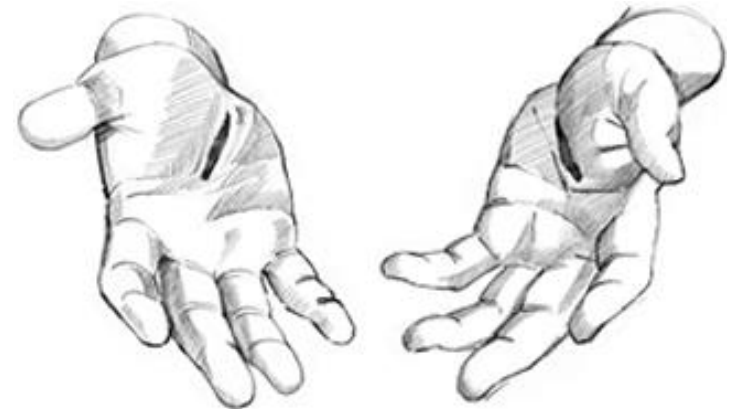
ACROSS

- The disciple who would not believe without seeing
- An entrance into a building or room
- A pointed and headed fastener designed to be pounded into wood
- Unwilling to believe that something is true

DOWN

- The body parts at the end of the arms
- To observe with your eyes
- Not open
- To believe in something for which there is no proof

FAITH	THOMAS	CLOSED	NAILS
HANDS	SEE	DOUBTING	DOOR



Focus on Acts 4:32–35

WHAT is important to know?

— From “*Exegetical Perspective*,” Samuel E. Balentine

There is the stress of earning a living, now made acute by the addition to Jerusalem’s population of persons from “every nation under heaven,” including “both Jews and proselytes” (2:5, 10). Acts 4:32–35, along with 2:42–47 and 6:1–7, provides insight into how the church responded to this economic challenge by describing its practice of sharing possessions so that “there was not a needy person among them” (4:34). These three texts as “acts of the apostles” suggest the church’s mission “in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth” is rooted in and grows out of the fundamental imperative to care for one another.

WHERE is God in these words?

— From “*Theological Perspective*,” Alan G. Padgett

In the Nicene Creed we confess belief in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church. Luke lays out some similar theological values for the Christian community. There is little doubt that our author paints a rather idyllic scene, but there is some grounding in historical reality. Luke notes that the small community is unified: “one heart and soul.” This ideal of unity is not of the bureaucratic kind, but of purpose, mission, and values. The power of the Holy Spirit and the powerful witness of the resurrection of our Lord gave them a unity that was part of their mission and witness to the world (v. 33).

SO WHAT does this mean for our lives?

— From “*Pastoral Perspective*,”
Cynthia M. Campbell

In verse 33, Luke makes it clear that the source of this extraordinary behavior is the resurrection of Jesus: “With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.” The resurrection is the demonstration of the power of God over all the powers of sin, death, and destruction in the world. It is also the power to transform the lives of those who believe. Does the resurrection of Jesus still have power to transform? In the contemporary post-Easter season, perhaps our efforts should be to help people see concrete glimpses into the power of God’s transforming presence in this world.

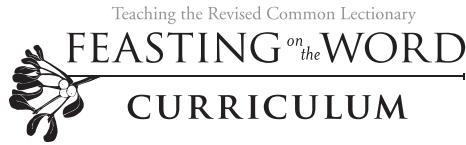
NOW WHAT is God’s word calling us to do?

— From “*Homiletical Perspective*,”
George Bryant Wirth

We are in a time of painful transitions and harmful divisions among congregations and denominations, within our country, and between the United States and other nations. As Christians who claim Jesus as Lord and Savior, we cannot allow our behavior to contradict his call and command to be “peacemakers” (Matt. 5:9) and to “love one another, just as I have loved you” (John 13:34). The clear and compelling message to share about unity in the midst of diversity is that the Lord calls us in humility to confess our sins, and to identify and reconcile ourselves not only with other Christians, but also with all of God’s human family on earth.

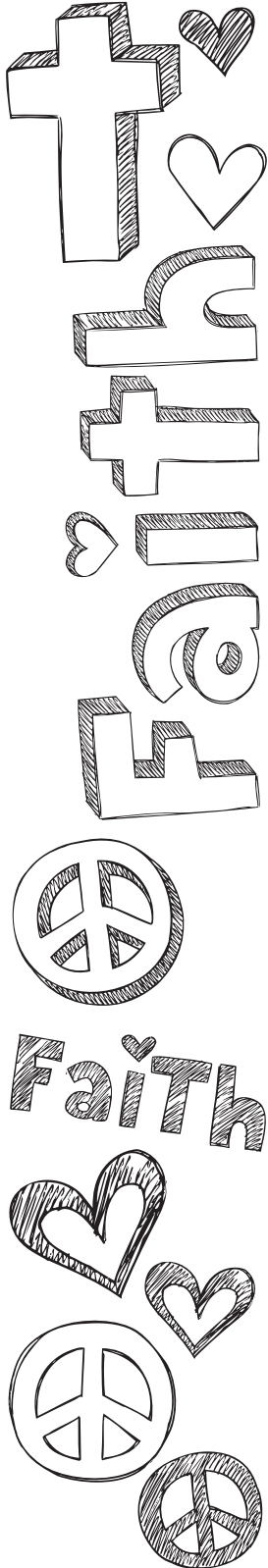
April 12, 2015

The Transforming Power
of the Resurrection



Adult
Resource Sheet 2

Examining Unity and Universality



The community of people who are the body of Christ are united in faith, hope, love, worship, and service. Closely related to the idea of the church's unity is its catholicity—its universality. The church is catholic in that it unites in faith and life Christians in all times and places; of all races, classes, languages, cultures, nationalities; in all kinds of political, economic, and social situations.

That is what Christians confess. But that is not what either non-Christians or Christians themselves actually see. What everyone sees is not *the* church but *many* churches. The splintering of *the* church into many churches screams that the church is *not* one, *not* catholic (and therefore not holy either).

Respond to the following on the back of this sheet:

What then can we do about this glaring contradiction? If we want the Spirit's community-building power among us,

... we can give up all attempts to justify, excuse, or explain away the scandal of the church's contradictory disunity and brokenness. We can acknowledge the sinfulness of the wrangling within and the divisions among churches and denominations.

1. Over what issues are you personally guilty of wrangling with others in the church with whom you disagree? Complete the following: I confess that I contribute to the brokenness of the church by . . .

... we can examine ourselves before we criticize the faith and life of other denominations and groups within our own denominations.

2. What separates me from those with whom I disagree on this issue? In what ways have I made the effort to open myself to other individuals who see it very differently?

... we will be open to talk and listen to other denominations and groups within our denomination.

3. What opportunities do you know of in your congregation or denomination for groups and individuals with whom we disagree on an issue to speak for themselves so that we can know more about their version of Christian faith and life? If there are not forums for discussion, why not?

... we will recognize that unity does not mean uniformity.

4. What are the limits to a diverse understanding on any issue on which we disagree? On what grounds would you decide that a viewpoint really does not belong in the church—not because we have excluded them but because they have excluded themselves?

—Excerpted and adapted from *Christian Doctrine, Revised Edition* by Shirley C. Guthrie (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1994), 358–359.