



CHRIST MORAVIAN CHURCH

In Essentials, Unity; In Non-Essentials, Liberty; In All Things, Love

Contact Us

Christ Moravian Church

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Pastor: Stephen Gohdes
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Executive Board

Chair: Alan Bartlett
Vice Chair: David Bennett
Secretary: Catherine Clake
Treasurer: Warren Haggith
Spiritual Programs: Arlene Kawchuk, Gloria Taylor, David Bennett, Alan Bartlett
Congregational Nurture: Gloria Taylor, Catherine Clake
Mission & Outreach: Donna Gordon, Bob Tedrick
Church Operations: Brian Pemberton, Arn Wylie, Roger Lohrey
Finance: Roger Lohrey, Alan Bartlett

Pastor Gohdes serves on all committees.

Church Elders

Bernard Amiot, Mary Ann Gates, Pastor Stephen Gohdes, Holly Heffernan, Doug Hill, Marilyn Jones, Duncan McKerchar, Brian Pemberton, Gloria Toole, Pat Wolf, Doug Zeck

Pastor's Thoughts for the New Year



The quaint Moravian tradition to draw a "watchword text" for the New Year ahead goes back centuries within the Moravian faith heritage. It has the emphasis to remind us that God's presence can have a surprising or startling impact we would not choose for ourselves. So it is with the watchword selected for us as a church community. Our text for 2017 is from Colossians 2:7. It reads:

"Paul wrote: Keep your roots deep in Jesus Christ, build your lives on him, and become stronger in your faith, as you were taught. And always be filled with thanksgiving."

I couldn't have thought of a more appropriate guiding text as noted in this scripture for a growing and serving church such as ours. With the many changes continuing to occur within our church and around the world, our rootedness in Jesus Christ is paramount in proving the grace-filled love we need in handling life's problems, insecurities, losses, grief's, changes and concerns.

I don't think it's an accident that Paul's words that conclude this passage simply urge THANKSGIVING in everything. I've had a great deal of time to reflect back on the 30 years of ordained ministry in these past weeks of the holiday season, and as I think of each of you, I'm simply led to "thanksgiving".

Thank you for the ministry you offer, the gifts you bring that are given in faith, for the many thoughtful words and actions and loving prayers offered amidst these past weeks. I am wholly filled with thanksgiving in thinking of each of you.



Blessings to all for 2017,

Pastor Steve

NEWS AND UPDATES

Upcoming Events

Sundays:

Bible Study: 9:30 am

Worship Service: 10:30 am

Communion: 1st Sunday

January 2017

1 New Year Service, 10:30am

7 Men's Breakfast, 8:30am

9 Board Meeting, 7pm

11 Spiritual Companions, 1pm

12 Canasta, 1pm

12 Youth Group Skating, 7pm

20 Mustard Seed, 1pm

20 - 22 Adult Retreat, Van Es

22 Church Council, 11:30am

25 WF Knitting, 10:30am - 2pm

26 Canasta, 1pm

26 Youth Group, 7pm

27 Women's Tea, 1pm

27 Post High Group, 7pm

28 Memorial Service, 1pm

Shepherd Brunch CANCELLED

29 Youth Group - Dinner Service at Inn From the Cold

Happy New Year 2017

I am the New Year.

I am an unspoiled page in your book of time.

I am your next chance at the art of living.

I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about life during the last twelve months.

All that you sought and didn't find is hidden in me, waiting for you to search it out with more determination.

All the good that you tried for and didn't achieve is mine to grant when you have fewer conflicting desires.

All that you dreamed but didn't dare to do,
all that you hoped but did not will,
all the faith that you claimed but did not have -
these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened
by the touch of a strong purpose.

I am your opportunity
to renew your allegiance to Him who said,
"Behold, I make all things new."

I am the New Year.

Author Unknown



Youth Confirmation of Faith



Youth in Junior/Senior High are invited to the Confirmation Class that celebrates their faith and deepens their love of Christ. Rev. Gohdes will meet with youth in a series of gatherings that lead them through the Old and New Testaments of the Bible, Early Church Activities,

the Moravian Church, and an expression of our faith in Christ. Speak with Rev. Gohdes for more information.

NEWS AND UPDATES

Upcoming Events

Sundays:

Bible Study: 9:30 am

Worship Service: 10:30 am

Communion: 1st Sunday

February 2017

1 Women's Fellowship, 1:15pm

4 Men's Breakfast, 8:30am

9 Canasta, 1pm

9 Youth Group, 7pm

22 WF Knitters, 10:30am

23 Canasta, 1pm

23 Youth Group, 7pm

27 Board Meeting, 7pm

March 1 - Ash Wednesday

Church Council Meeting

Sunday, January 22, 11:30 am

All congregational members are called to attend the upcoming brief winter church council meeting to:

- 1) Accept the financial statements of 2016.
- 2) Accept the proposed budget for 2017.

Any other agenda items should be brought forward to Chair Alan Bartlett prior to the meeting.



Due to unforeseeable circumstances, the Shepherd Brunch originally scheduled for January 28 has been cancelled.



Our thanks go out to Marty Antonini and the 7th Heaven Choir for their gift of music at the benefit concert on December 14 that allowed us to donate over \$800 and many boxes of food items to the Calgary Interfaith Food Bank.

WORSHIP THEMES AND SCRIPTURE

January 1

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13
Psalm 8
Revelation 21:1-6a
Matthew 25:31-46

January 8

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-1

January 15

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

January 22

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

January 29

Micah 6:1-8
Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12

February 5

Isaiah 58:1 - 12
Psalm 112:1-9 (10)
1 Corinthians 2:1-12
(13-16)
Matthew 5:13-20

February 12

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 119:1-8
1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Matthew 5:21-37

February 19

Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18
Psalm 119:33-40
1 Corinthians 3:10-11,
16-23
Matthew 5:38-48

February 26

Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 2
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

Worship to Feed the Soul!



As the long, dark, cold months of January and February occur, Sunday worship becomes a source of delight and joy for us. January worship begins in the season of "Epiphany", a time in which God's presence "comes to light" through Jesus. Here are some highlights of these Sunday's.

EPIPHANY'S THEME...Ministry is what we do!

- Jan 1:** Watchword Sunday, Holy Communion
- Jan 8:** Scripture Focus: Matt. 3: 13-17, the baptism of Jesus. God is at times of birth, beginning and blessing.
Special Music shared by Darlene Roach
- Jan 15:** As Rev. Gohdes is away we welcome Ms. Carrie Behlke, who'll offer a refreshing service which features the quaint theme of the Little Brown Church in the Vale. Come and worship as the little church on the corner of Southland and Acadia comes alive.
- Jan 22:** Scripture Focus: Matt. 4: 12-23, Jesus' ministry begins in service and sharing.
Special Music shared by Carl Richards.
Service is followed by Church Council.
- Jan 29:** Scripture Focus: Matt. 5:-12, the Beatitudes enrich our thoughts.
January Birthday Celebration.
- Feb 5:** Scripture Focus: Matt. 5:13-20, Jesus teaches that we are salt and light.
Holy Communion is celebrated.
- Feb 12:** Scripture Focus: Matt. 5:21 ff, Jesus teaches on anger and covenant living.
- Feb 19:** Scripture Focus: Matt. 5:38 ff, Jesus teaches about turning the other cheek, and offering your cloak in love to the needy.
- Feb 26:** Scripture Focus: Matt. 17:1-9, the transfiguration of Jesus upon the mountaintop.
February Birthday Sunday.

To read the scripture: Click on the passage in the column to the left.

MORAVIAN MOMENT

In Essentials

Unity

In Non-Essentials

Liberty

In All Things

Love

The Moravian Motto: Uncovering the Essentials

When the Moravian church was founded in 1457 it was illegal for anyone to separate from the established church, and so the original Brethren did not take this step lightly. They did a lot of thinking about why they had to form a new community of faith, and sometimes they even had to defend their views before government officials or the Inquisition.

The Brethren argued that they had to break away from the churches of their day because those churches had lost the real spirit and goal of Christianity. Our spiritual ancestors wanted to get back to the basics of following the way of Christ as presented in the New Testament.

The leader of the Brethren was a tailor by the name of Gregory, and he insisted that the New Testament tells us clearly what is essential: faith, love, and hope. Everything the church does should be for the purpose of building people up in faith, in love, and in hope. If the church does not do this, it is not really the church. More importantly, if a person has faith, love, and hope, he or she is a Christian regardless of what the institutional church says. For Moravians, true Christianity is not based on a certain creed or doctrine; it is grounded in the living experience of faith in Christ, active love for others and joyful hope.

The Moravian motto, while not original to the Moravian Church, has served as a reminder that love is the real spirit of acceptance, that love is the bottom line of our life together. We are most Moravian when we dare to make this motto our living witness, when others look at us and say, "Hey, that motto is more than just catchy words, more than a nice poem; it is a description of faith and life in the Moravian Church."

In essentials, unity: Christ is the one big essential. The reality of God's love offered in Christ is what our life of faith is all about. We don't understand or experience Christ in exactly the same way, but it doesn't matter. Our faith in Christ and our commitments to live as his followers are what really matter. Christ is the ground and source of our unity.

In non-essentials, liberty: The list of nonessentials is as big and wide as the heart of liberty. Here we go beyond mere tolerance to acceptance of diversity. We need to be able to say that it is not only okay to have variety of worship forms, musical selections, clergy styles, program offerings and service opportunities; it is good and healthy for the life of the church. Tolerance is too easy; acceptance is our real challenge.

In all things, love: Love affirms our unity rather than our divisions. Love has the power to make of our differences no difference. We all know we have plenty of differences. We could spend a lot of time identifying and fighting with one another. But "In all things love" means the love that has the power to overcome our differences by refocusing our concern on all that we have in common. We believe we all have much more in common than we will ever have in difference. Love not only brings us together in God's family but keeps us together as a community of faith.

Read the full articles at: <http://www.moravian.org/the-moravian-church/the-moravian-church-is/>
<http://www.moravian.org/uncategorized/in-essentials-unity-understanding-the-essential-things/>

MISSION & MINISTRY

Matthew 25:34-40

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' " The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.



Mission Opportunity

Volunteer at the Ahuas Clinic in Honduras

Date: February 19-26, 2017, Ongoing availability for 7-10 day visits

Age: 18+

Cost: \$1,500 US

The Ahuas Clinic needs your help! Come and find out how Honduran Moravians live and worship. Come and see how a small remote Moravian Hospital is making a difference in the lives of some of the most isolated and underserved people in this hemisphere. Come and witness in Christ's name.

Teams are being formed to help with construction and maintenance projects, as well as ongoing medical work. Upcoming teams will be completing construction projects around the clinic campus and working with the Infant Feeding Program administered through the Preventative Medicine Program at the clinic. If you are interested in taking part in this experience, e-mail Justin Rabbach at justin@moravianmission.org.



CMC Mission Fund: In December, proceeds from the newly formed Mission Fund were used to support three local charities, the Salvation Army, Women in Need and the Calgary Homeless Foundation. With the downturn in Alberta's economy, local groups such as these are struggling to continue their important work with those in Calgary who are most vulnerable. If you would like to contribute to the Mission Fund, please indicate this by marking donations, "Mission Fund"



CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY



The youth group has enjoyed a busy couple of months. In November, many of our youth attended the Belong Retreat at Camp Van Es. We hear they had a lot of fun and little sleep! We also prepared 14 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child and learned more about global issues with Me to We.

In December, we enjoyed senior visits, selling Rafiki bracelets, and a Christmas party with movie, gift exchange and WAY too much popcorn. We appreciate the youth and parents who came out to light the luminaries on Christmas Eve. It was a chilly night but their hard work and enthusiasm kept us warm!

We must extend a HUGE thank you to our congregation for their tremendous support of our Rafiki fundraiser for Me to We. Every Rafiki Bracelet makes an impact in three ways: it helps the artisan who made it earn a living and save for the future; it provides a tangible impact, like clean water or school supplies to a member of a developing community; and it allowed our youth to learn about and fundraise for an important cause. Thanks to Christ Church's generosity, we sold 62 Rafiki Bracelets!

We are very excited for all that 2017 will bring. Highlights for January include skating at Lake Bonavista and preparing and serving meals at Inn from the Cold. February will include a fun Valentine's service project and swimming at the Leisure Centre. It promises to be another fantastic year of fun, friendship and faith. Please join us and bring your friends!!

Submitted by Jessica Pratt

Upcoming Activities:

Jan 12 - Skating at Lake Bonavista,

7pm meet at the lake entrance

Jan26 - Meet at the church, 7pm

Jan 29 - Inn From the Cold

Feb 9 - Valentine's Service Project

Feb 23 - Swimming at Southland Leisure Centre



A Life Transformed by Me to WE Artisan Program

Forty-two-year-old Rahab Sopiato lives in the Maasai community of Kajjiado, Kenya. She gave birth to the first of three children when she was just 12. The father didn't stick around, so she scratched out a living making charcoal. It was gruelling work and took her three days to fill one sack. The market was a three-hour walk away, so she would borrow a neighbour's donkey. If she was lucky, she sold the sack for 100 Kenyan shillings, enough to buy corn flour to make a thin porridge for her children. Rahab sold charcoal for 30 years. She was thin and sickly and so were her children. She couldn't afford to send her eldest daughter to high school at a cost of \$350 CAD.

Four years ago, Rahab joined ME to WE Artisans making beautiful beaded necklaces, bracelets and earrings, just as her mother taught her - and it transformed her life. With the money she has earned, she has sent her eldest daughter to secondary school. She's bought cows so her family has milk. And she set's up a small shop selling sugar, soda, flour, rice, potatoes and sweets, beading for Artisans while she waits for customers. At night, Rahab sits on the comfortable cushioned seats she bought, in her newly painted house, and watches her small TV. She pats her stomach and strong thighs and says the extra pounds she has gained are another sign of her good fortune.

<https://shop.metowe.com/track-your-impact/>