

Coaldale Mennonite Church

2316 – 17 St., Coaldale, Alberta

***“Rooted in Jesus, Growing in Grace, Connected in
Community, Branching into the World”***

Keeping in Touch –April 23, 2021



- ✓ **We are open for Sunday morning services to in-person attendance to a maximum of 33 people in the sanctuary, as per government regulations. This amount includes those involved in the service. We are asking that if you have access to the live stream service to continue to watch from home, that way those who do not get the live stream, can come in-person. If you wish to attend in person, registration is mandatory. Please call the office by Thursday am.
Please do not attend in person if you are experiencing the most common symptoms of COVID-19 (cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose, or sore throat).**
- ✓ **The Live Stream of the Sunday Service will begin at 11am.** You will be able to find the Live Stream on **You Tube** and searching **Coaldale Mennonite Church**.
- ✓ **Sunday School –** We will be having Sunday School starting at 10am on Zoom. This Zoom link will connect you with the class.

Topic: Sunday School/ Sharing/Announcements

Time: Apr 25, 2021 10:00 AM Edmonton

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87077579750?pwd=OUgwcWsvdDIES0Zwc3lxWEFMam4wQT09>

Meeting ID: 870 7757 9750

Passcode: 780778

- ✓ For those that are attending church in-person and want to be a part of Sunday School, there will be a group watching via Zoom from the church fellowship hall that you may join at 10:00am.
- ✓ **We will be having our time of sharing and announcements via Zoom at 10:30am.** To connect, use the Zoom invite for Sunday School.
- ✓ **Men's Prayer time - Wednesdays at 8:30am at church.**
- ✓ **Church Directory Update** – The Church Directory is being updated for 2021. There is a copy of the current directory on the bulletin board. Please make any necessary changes to your address/phone numbers as needed. If you would like to have your email address or rural address added to the directory or your name removed, please mark them down as well. You may call the office with any additions or corrections if you are unable come to the church.
- ✓ **Coaldale Cemetery Board member** – We are looking for someone to represent our church on the Cemetery Board. Mr. Jake Klassen has been on this board for many years and at the age of 90, he would like to retire from this position. The position requires you to attend the occasional meeting and help maintain the tombstones in the Mennonite section of the Coaldale cemetery. If you are interested in this position or have questions, call the church office.
- ✓ **Thank you to our church family** for caring for us during our Covid journey. We cannot express how much we appreciate all the prayers, food, flowers, treats and words of love. We are so blessed. We look forward to the day when our healing is complete, and we can worship together again.

Much love, Peter and Maxine

- ✓ **Found – A Daylight Devotional Bible.** There is no name in this Bible. It has been rebound. This Bible looks like it has been well used, with lots of handwritten notes in it. It has been in the church office for several months. If you are missing your Bible, call the church office.
- ✓ **The Coaldale-Lethbridge Food Grains Project** was able to seed this year's crop this past Tuesday, April 20th. Thank you to all that helped and please continue to pray for a good growing season and harvest this year.
- ✓ **Givings for April 18, 2021:** \$1745.00 Budget \$1745.00
 - **E-transfer has been updated. No password is necessary.**
 - **E-transfer** is available for your donations to the church email: cmchurch@telusplanet.net

Leading us in Worship this Sunday:

Worship Leader: Adam Janzen

Music: Kelsey Janzen

Speaker: Gary Giesbrecht

Scripture Readings: Genesis 45:1-11, Genesis 50:15-21, Matthew 5:43-48

Sermon Title: When Forgiveness and Justice meet.

Sound: Mike Marriott

Media: Ryan Kung

Usher Team: Team 1



PRAYER FOCUS



Pray for:

- † **Peter & Maxine Janzen** who have Covid-19. Peter is in hospital while Maxine is recovering at home.
- † **David Giesbrecht** who is recuperating at home.
- † **Our students and teachers at John Davidson School**
- † **Our seniors at the various lodges and those in their homes.**
- † **Coaldale Food Bank**

(If you would like to have a prayer request in this weekly update, please contact Jodi at cmchurch@telusplanet.net or 403-345-3363.)

Note from Pastor Gary

“When Forgiveness and Justice Embrace”

In Genesis 50:15-21 (NIV),

¹⁵ When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?” ¹⁶ So they sent word to Joseph, saying, “Your father left these instructions before he died: ¹⁷ ‘This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.’ Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father.” When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

¹⁸ His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. “We are your slaves,” they said.

¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹ So then, don’t be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.” And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

Forgiveness and Justice embrace when Jacob passes away and the brothers of Joseph wondered if he would take revenge against them for the injustice, they put him through. Joseph did not dismiss what they had done and say, “that was nothing.” Rather he puts this whole issue in perspective, starting with “you intended to harm me.” The issue was still alive even though it happened many years ago. This is where Joseph chose to go in the direction of forgiveness, “God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done.” This takes a lot of courage for a person who could have demanded that his brothers be his slaves. But as powerful as Joseph was, he appealed to the greater power and the purposes of God in his life, “the saving of many lives.” His suffering became the door to save his people specifically, and to a greater extent the world.

In Acts 9, Saul (later Paul) was on his way to persecute the Christians in Damascus. On the way he encountered Jesus. It is interesting that when Jesus talks to Saul he asks this question “Why do you persecute me” (Acts 9:4b)? When talking to Saul Christ did not sugar coat the issue, but rather faced it head on. The issue was the injustice that Saul was inflicting on Christ by persecuting the Christians. When forgiveness embraced justice and it changes the trajectory of Saul’s life.

When forgiveness embraces justice, it does not pretend that injustice did not happen and dismiss it. Rather forgiveness acknowledges the injustice and takes the power of revenge away by accepting the apology. Augsburg says it so well, “we give up demands for perfect behavior, perfect justice, perfect resolution, perfect retribution” (*The New Freedom of Forgiveness*; David Augsburg, p.52). While I have used relatively few words to describe the embrace of forgiveness and justice, the process is never instant. When the injustice is a crime, we must recognize that there are consequences for the crime. In this case “restorative justice” is a way of meeting the demands of injustice by: “viewing crime as more than breaking the law – it also causes harm to people, relationships, and the community. So a just response must address those harms as well as the wrongdoing. If the parties are willing, the best way to do this is to help them meet to discuss those harms and how to about bring resolution” <http://restorativejustice.org/restorative-justice/about-restorative-justice/tutorial-intro-to-restorative-justice/lesson-1-what-is-restorative-justice/#sthash.cnrylwq.dpbs>. Joseph did not embrace his brothers and reveal himself the first time he met them. It took several meetings and the presences of his brother Benjamin to declare his identity. In Saul’s case, after he had received his sight Ananias had a message from the Lord that Saul would “suffer for the sake of Christ” (Acts 9:16). Eventually Saul had to escape Damascus in a basket over the wall of the city.

On a personal note, it wasn’t until I was in my mid 30’s that I felt the injustice of leaving home at an early age and was sent into boarding. As I faced this issue, I came to realize that this injustice fed into other aspects of my life. So, when I talked to my parents, I mentioned this injustice, “Why did you send me into boarding, I was not ready to leave home so young?” Of course, this caught them off guard as this had never been talked about in our family. Forgiveness opened the door acknowledging my hurt and my parents then shared their pain of sending us into boarding and as a result the trajectory of our relationship changed.

This topic is personal in that we have treated others unjustly in our families and close relationships and have been treated unjustly by others. On a national and international level, the implications of this are broadcasted daily as “white police have killed, black persons” and this has fueled the fire of racial tensions in Canada and the USA. Even within the broader church the issue of sexual abuse has come to light in the allegations of church male leaders who have sexually abused women. The list could go on, but the solutions must include the “embrace of forgiveness and justice.”

Pastor Gary Giesbrecht



To Contact the Church

Admin Assistant: Jodi Reed

Office Hours: 9am – 12noon Monday – Friday

Church Office: **403-345-3363** & **403-345-5255**

Lead Pastor, Gary Giesbrecht: **403-795-0350**

Pastor to Seniors, Lil Thompson: **403-331-0297**

Lay Pastor, Eric Giesbrecht: **403-345-3946**