

February 2026 Newsletter

Millwoods Community Church

2304-38 St. NW, Edmonton, AB, T6L 4K9 E office@mcchurch.ca 780.463.7427

Dear Millwoods Community Church,

I don't know about you, but I'm thoroughly enjoying our epistle sharing series on "Manifesting Hope in the Darkness." For me it has dovetailed nicely into our Advent and Christmas series and has given me the added wonder of hearing my colleagues preach, something I almost never get a chance to do. I hope you have also found it meaningful and helpful, especially in these times.

It seems that every week, or every day, something we took for granted is no longer certain. Quality products, affordable groceries, weekly church attendance, stable international relationship within NATO, access to family doctors, barely adequate legroom on West Jet flights (thankfully that one's been addressed). I've been in the Canadian District for more than 7 years, and I cannot recall a time when we've had communications from both the BECD and the PEC to communicate to our members in the same week. The inclusion of those two letters in this newsletter is just one more sign of the changing times. Please read them with care.

How do we cope with this level of uncertainty and fluctuation? The same way people have coped with struggle for countless generations: build, maintain, and support healthy communities.

For those of us in the church, that looks like putting in the effort to be part of this community. It means gathering together regularly (weekly or even more often is ideal) for worship, prayer, study, and mutual support. It is easy to not put in the effort. It is easy to slide into isolation. In these weird times, put the effort into your relationships. This is a time when we all need a village. That means we all need to be villagers for each other.

It also means taking care of your own spiritual wellbeing. This is one of the reasons I'm excited for our Lenten Series on *The ruthless elimination of hurry*. We're all getting pulled this way and that all the time and we need to remember to slow down, to pray, to process, to be disciples of Jesus who was surprisingly unhurried. I truly hope you can join us for that series.

Whatever you do to navigate all the uncertainty, know you are in my prayers, and this community is here for you. All you need to do is be a part of it.

Peace to you,
Pastor Aaron



Moravian Church in Canada

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE BOARD

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January 22, 2026

To Moravians in Alberta,

Due to events in Alberta at the end of 2025, we want to remind our members that the Northern Province of the Moravian Church and the Canadian District

- affirms the dignity and rights of persons of all gender identities,
- affirms that persons of all gender identities are children of God, and
- declares that all gender identities shall be supported and affirmed by being allowed to celebrate their lives as individuals, couples, and families within the bounds of the church and under the grace which our Creator imparts to all people.

If you want to know more about our discernment on this topic please speak with one of our pastors. You can also read Synod's discernment on [page 51 of the 2018 Synod resolutions](#), "Inclusion of persons of all gender identities."

We also appreciate the efforts of our full communion partners in Canada and Alberta for publicly defending the dignity of transgender people, particularly young people, who are adversely impacted by recent events.

Lastly, we encourage you to hold all vulnerable people in your prayers, and to pray that we all might be guided to deeper understanding, compassion, and empathy so that more wounds are healed and fewer are created.

In the Chief Elder, the BECD

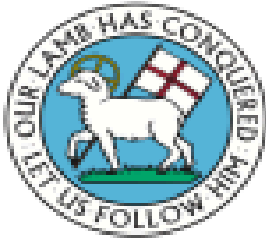
David Jones

Rev. Jamie Almquist

Rev. Aaron Linville

Jeff Pratt

Brandon Salyzyn



The Moravian Church in America

NORTHERN PROVINCE PROVINCIAL ELDERS' CONFERENCE

1021 Center St., Bethlehem, Pennsylvania 18018 • 610.865.3137 • www.mcnp.org

Affirming the Church's Call to Justice and Public Witness

Grace, mercy, and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

In February of 2025, the Provincial Elders' Conference wrote a Statement and Letter to the Church, which came to be known as "The Compassion Statement." It was titled *Humbly and Boldly Following Christ in Our Ministries of Caring and Public Witness* and its purpose was to offer encouragement and prayers to the church in a very challenging and difficult time.

One year later we are writing again, this time having witnessed immense human suffering resulting from numerous orders and policies drafted by and enforced in the U.S. and around the world in inhumane and capricious ways. Such policies have impacted basic human needs including health care, food, shelter, and education. As is often the case, the most vulnerable have suffered most.

We are especially alarmed and grieved at the inhumane treatment of persons and their families who are immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, and those who care for them. Many people in our congregations, communities, and nations now live with constant fear and terror, the trauma of which is known to cause deep and lasting wounds, particularly for children.

We have witnessed the devastating loss of life, and the cruel treatment of children, youth and adults in the processes of detainment, arrest, disappearance, confinement and deportation. We have witnessed the increasing acts of aggression, violence, and racial profiling by federal law enforcement agencies in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota, and in a growing number of cities and towns across the U.S. We join other people of faith in calling for the protection of human and civil rights of all persons; thorough and legitimate investigations of the deaths of Geraldo Lunam Campos, Renee Nicole Good and Alex Pretti; accountability; de-escalation; and prayers for all involved. We have also witnessed the rise of Christian nationalism and its active threat to democracy.

We reiterate resolutions from the 2023 Provincial Synod on immigration matters, joining the National Council of Churches (US) in its call:

for a comprehensive solution to our immigration challenges that respects the "Imago Dei" (the image of God) in all people, keeps our borders safe, and honors the diversity that makes our nation a great tapestry, and we affirm:

the worth, dignity, and inherent value and rights of immigrants, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, and declare support for the humane treatment of any person coming across our borders, regardless of legal status.

As a province in two countries, we express our profound grief and disappointment in the threats and baseless negative comments directed at Canada by the United States. The U.S. has been privileged to enjoy a mutually beneficial and supportive relationship with Canada for many years, and it is being dramatically affected by those in the U.S. government pursuing an imperialistic agenda leading to a devastating loss of the longstanding cooperation of nations. Our siblings in Canada are searching for understanding and support as this stance by the U.S. creates fear and uncertainty in their lives. We call the church to prayer, to standing in solidarity with Canada, and to speaking out on their behalf.

We offer support for our clergy, ministers, church leaders, and congregations, and our ecumenical and interfaith partners, in their care, support and advocacy for immigrants, migrants, and asylum seekers, and in their resettlement ministries for refugees. We call for adherence to court orders and to legal means for making program, policy, and funding changes and decisions. We continue to pray fervently for the protection of human and civil rights, respect for relationships with our nation's allies and sovereignty of nations, and adherence to international law.

We affirm the church's call to public witness and its prophetic tradition. In our liberty, some may discern Christ's call in this critical time as a call to recognize a higher loyalty to God and conscience, to protect and secure freedom and justice for all, and to preserve the democracy in which we are privileged to live [MCCL, ¶27]. In any discernment, we are called to do all things in love with the conviction that the day will come when truth and justice reigns. Even now, "Our Lamb has conquered. Let us follow him."

We abide in prayer for each of you and for all. May the church of Jesus, our Chief Elder and only Lord, be guided by love and mercy and unwavering hope in God's coming reign of justice and peace where all will live as one beloved community.

The Provincial Elders' Conference

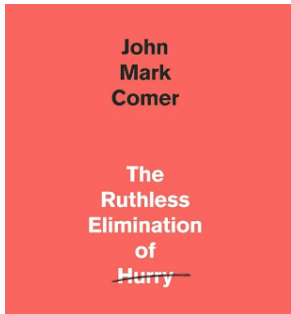
Moravian Church Northern Province

January 27, 2026

F.Y.I Corner

Millwoods Community Church AGM

The 2025 AGM will be held February 8th right after worship. Lunch will be provided. Packets have been emailed. If you get the newsletter mailed to you, your packet is in your mailbox at the church.



The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry - Lenten Study -

12:00pm-1:30pm

ECPA BESTSELLER • A compelling emotional and spiritual case against hurry and in favor of a slower, simpler way of life—from the New York Times bestselling author of Practicing the Way

“Who am I becoming?” That was the question nagging pastor and author John Mark Comer. Outwardly, he appeared successful. But inwardly, things weren’t pretty. So he turned to a trusted mentor for guidance and heard these

words: **“Ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life. Hurry is the great enemy of the spiritual life.”** It wasn’t the response he expected, but it was—and continues to be—the answer he needs.

Join us as we slow down and study this book for our Lenten series. Lunch will be provided by volunteers. Please sign up in the binder. Feel free to contact Pastor Aaron or Katie for more information.

Dates: Wednesday Feb 18th, 2026 at noon (Ash Wednesday); Sundays after worship: February 22nd, March 1st, March 8th, March 15th, March 22nd

Canadian District Listening Circle

The PEC is excited to invite you to participate in a Province-wide program called Listening Circles. The Listening Circle for the Canadian District will be held on zoom on February 15th at 2:00. It should last 90 minutes.

Listening Circles are places for expression and community building. The PEC and the Racial Justice Team believe that creating intentional spaces for listening is greatly needed in our time.

The hoped for outcomes of the Listening Circles include:

- To hear how participants define Biblical justice and what it looks like to them
- To hear how participants have experienced injustice (racial/social) in their lives and communities
- To hear how the church might respond to injustices in their context
- To hear what is hoped for going forward for justice and racial justice work in their congregations.

Pastors Jamie Almquist (pastoralmquist@gmail.com) and Aaron Linville (pastor@mcchurch.ca) will serve as facilitators for the Canadian District Listening Circle. Please contact us or Marion Perrin (marion479@gmail.com) with questions. There is no need to RSVP. [Click here to join.](#)

Camp Van Es Update

Welcome the new Executive Director of Camp Van Es & Conference Centre



Aiden Lamb started in the role of Executive Director at Van Es Camp & Conference Centre in June 2025, bringing a background that spans education, community organizing, nonprofit leadership, business consulting, and even circus performing. This mix of experiences and the community connections that come with it brings a fresh perspective to camp leadership.



Since June, Aiden has been listening. To staff. To guests. To the land itself. He's been learning what Van Es does best and where there's room to grow. From that listening, Van Es is starting to evolve with purpose and care, maintaining the warmth and authenticity that makes this place special.

Outside of camp, you'll find Aiden spending time with family, building community initiatives, and always finding time to try new things.

Bible Study Coming 2026 with Britt W.

The study is called "The Promise and Power of Easter" by Christine Caine and Lisa Harper. Britt would like to do a group book order to get a discount, hoping to place the order by November 18th.



Where: Millwoods Community Church Fireside Room 230 4 -3 8 Street

Time: 1:00 PM - 3:00 (3:30) PM

Dates: February 3 & 17, March 3 & 17

Lead By Britt Wudel from Heimtal Moravian Church Contact Britt for a book or more information at: gbwudel@gmail.com OR 780-218-6385

Community Care & Connection

WeCan Food Basket

We are looking for more volunteers to help out with the distribution of food that we receive for our WeCan food baskets. This is a great opportunity to support the Edmonton community around us. We are fortunate to have our pickup depot grow substantially. Interested in helping? Please speak to Ken, Sandy, Ron, Sonja, or Pastor Aaron.



To place an order please

- go to [WECAN Food Basket Society](#), to order online.
- For **in-person cash orders**, please come to the church on the third Thursday of the month from noon-2:00 (the same as our pick-up time).

Millwoods Prayer List

Bev, Alice, Carol, Rita, BECD, MWCC Joint Board.



Talk with your Pastor

Your Pastor wants to visit you and know how you're doing. If you see him stop and chat, call the church office or the Pastor's number 780-862-9453.

Quilting Group

If you are interested in sewing, quilting, or just like to have fellowship. Look no further and join the quilting group every 3rd Saturday at our church. They meet from 9am to 5pm, or however long you want to stay. The cost is \$20, you pay on the day of (this helps for the cost of renting the space). This group is all skill levels so don't be afraid to come even if you are a beginner.



Worship

Communion dates for 2026:

- February 22 (Lent 1)
- March 15 (Lent 4)
- April 2 (Maundy Thursday)
- May 24 (Pentecost)
- June 21 (Sunday before Synod)
- July 5 (Jan Hus)
- August 16 (Aug 13)
- September 13
- October 4 (World Communion Sunday)
- November 15 (Chief Elder)
- December 6 (Advent 2)

Sunday Readers

Thank you to all those who have signed up to read this month! We could not do it without you!



Musicians for Sunday Worship

Are you interested in joining us by using your talents and skills in music for our Sunday morning services? If you are interested in doing this please contact Katie with a few Sundays you are free to participate in.

Donate

If you would like to give an offering or donation to our church you may do so by mailing in your offerings, sending an E-Transfer to office@mcchurch.ca, or going to www.mcchurch.ca and clicking on the donate button on the top of the homepage, and choosing which method of donation you wish to use.

Get the Newsletter for the Northern Province!

Make sure you subscribe to the Moravian monthly newsletter to receive information for the District and Northern province. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Sylvie Hauser at sylvie@mcnp.org with comments, concerns, or questions about these changes.



“Millwoods Community Church gathers on Treaty 6 Territory, the traditional lands of First Nations and Metis People, and on the former Papaschase Reservation.” [Learn more here.](#)

Millwoods Community Church

2304-38 Street, Edmonton, AB 780-463-7427

office@mcchurch.ca www.mcchurch.ca

Rev. Aaron Linville Phone#780-862-9453, email: pastor@mcchurch.ca

Music Director: Katie Tilbury Phone#403-550-5424 email: music@mcchurch.ca

Church Administration: Melanie Wilcox Phone #780-463-7427, email: office@mcchurch.ca

Office Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 10am to 1pm and by appointment.

February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Service 10:30		Women's Bible Study 1pm	WeCan In Person Order 10:00-noon	WeCan Online orders due		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Service 10:30 AGM After Worship						 HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Service 10:30 Cdn District Listening Circle 2pm over zoom	Family Day Office Closed 	Women's Bible Study 1pm	Lenten study 12pm to 1:30pm	12 - 2 pm WeCan in-person pickup		Quilting Group 9am - 5pm
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Communion Service 10:30 Lenten study 12pm to 1:30pm Birthday Celebration Sunday!						
March 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Service 10:30 Lenten study 12pm to 1:30pm		Women's Bible Study 1pm	WeCan In Person Order 10:00-noon		WeCan Online orders due	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Service 10:30 Lenten study 12pm to 1:30pm						

Daylight Saving Time

