

“On Mission Together”

Saskatchewan Conference of MB Churches

Director’s Calendar

December

8 – National Ministry Team Meeting
12 – Blaine Lake Gospel Chapel
13 - 17 – Spiritual & Planning Retreat
18 to 29 – Christmas Vacation

January

9 – Christian Fellowship Church
(Lucky Lake) TBA
16 – Northwest Community Church
(Meadow Lake)
23 – Riverhurst Community Church
26 – Nuts & Bolts Webinar
30 – Woodrow Gospel Chapel

**Please pray for traveling
mercies.**

Director of Ministry

Rev. Philip A. Gunther

Call or text:

306-533-6191

Email: phil@skmb.ca

604 Webster St.

Saskatoon SK S7N 3P9

Website & News Letter

Administrator

Heather Filazek

Email: office@skmb.ca

Christmas, Candy Canes & The Gospel



I love Christmas traditions and symbols. One such symbol is the candy cane. How many of you know the historical narrative behind the candy cane?

The first known story behind our present-day Candy Cane dates back to 1670 in the city of Cologne, Germany. The Cologne Cathedral choirmaster, wanting to quiet the children during practices for the Christmas pageant, had a local candy maker create white peppermint sticks for them. In order to make the eating of candy in church acceptable, he had the Candy Canes shaped into the form of a shepherd’s staff. This was to remind the children of the shepherds who visited Jesus at His birth. Later traditions held that the Candy Cane’s shape, being a “J”, represented the “J” in Jesus name – he being the Good Shepherd. The hardness of the Candy Cane came to represent Jesus as the rock solid foundation of our faith and the Church. The white of the Candy Cane represented Christ’s virgin birth, holiness and purity.

Over time red strips were added to the peppermint Candy Canes. These strips represented both God’s love and Jesus shed blood on the cross. Some Candy Canes added three fine red strips between wider single red strips. These three strips came to represent the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), although in some traditions, they represented the lashes Jesus received by the Roman soldiers causing him to bleed before his crucifixion.

Sometime during its history, the peppermint of the Candy Cane came to represent hyssop, an herb from the mint family mentioned in the Old Testament. Hyssop was used for religious purification and sacrifices. The peppermint of the Candy Cane thus represented Jesus’s purifying sacrifice on the cross cleansing us from sin. Eventually, green strips were added to Candy Canes representing God’s gift of new life in Jesus because He saved us from our sins. The common candy cane points to the “why” of Jesus’ incarnation. This is indeed good news of great joy!

Merry Christmas!

Phil Gunther



**SKMB Family, may you have a
blessed Christmas and New Year!**

Thank you all for your support, words of
encouragement and prayers in 2021.

Phil & Janine Gunther, Luke & Bailey Etelamaki,
Heather & Darryl Filazek, Aaron & Amy Hepting

Supporting SKMB Churches and Camps in Making Disciples



All SKMB Pastors and Ministers
are invited to
Let's Get Acquainted Coffee Event

on
December 14
1:30 - 2:30pm

at
Horizon College & Seminary
604 Weber Street, Saskatoon
(Beside Forest Grove Community Church)

One of the secrets in Saskatoon is the phenomenal education opportunity that exists with seminary studies through Horizon College and Seminary. To remedy that secret, we are inviting pastors and ministers to a "Let's Get Acquainted" coffee event.

Meet seminary faculty:

- Susan Wendel, Seminary Academic Dean
- Ron Kadyschuk, Affiliate Faculty
- Heather Tomes, Coordinator for the Master of Arts in Pastoral Counselling
- Andrew Gabriel, Vice-President of Academics
- Jeromey Martini, President
- Harry Strauss, Coordinator for the Master of Arts in Pastoral Leadership

For more information on faculty: [Faculty & Staff - Horizon College & Seminary.](https://www.horizon.edu/2021/12/06/lets-get-acquainted/)

Also Included:

- Sharing by faculty
- Q/A
- Refreshments
- Tour of the building

Feel free to extend this invitation to those who might have an interest in seminary education.

Learn More: <https://www.horizon.edu/2021/12/06/lets-get-acquainted/>

RSVP: hstrauss@horizon.edu

Hope you can join us!



Christmas Resources
As you plan for Advent and Christmas here are some resources or ideas that may help you along the way. We'd also love to have you share the resources you turn to or have developed yourself so we can support and resource one another. Check out our Advent Resources at https://skmb.ca/advent_christmas_resources/



Delight your loved ones and share God's love with our global neighbours this Christmas. Choose from unique gifts such as goats, clean water, fruit trees, books and many more.

Give at mcccanada.ca/christmas or call **1-888-622-6337**.

Leadership Forum 2021

On November 27th Dr. Mark Wessner (MB Seminary) provided SKMB participants with leadership training. His presentation was called *The Four Voices of Leadership*. The CCMBC National Director Elton DaSilva brought greetings and a national update via video. Director of Ministry, Phil Gunther and Discipleship Coach, Luke Etelamaki, gave brief reports on their Conference work. SKMB Executive Board Moderator, Jeff Siemens, spoke to the *Common Covenant and Our Common Understandings* document while Executive Board member Dave Foth introduced the 2022 budget. Scott Siemens, MST Chair introduced a new ministry opportunity for SKMB called the Global Gospel Advance (GGA). The GGA is a means by which SKMB can support the global work of Pastor Athanase Chiruzza (Mission Pentecostal Church, Regina).

SKMB Office Communications