

**God is  
Love**

**1 John 4:8**

# Wisconsin Rapids Moravian Church

310 First Avenue South 715-423-0180 www.wrmoravian.org

*“Sharing Christ, Serving People”*

Sunday, April 28, 2024

5th Sunday of Easter

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PRELUDE: “You, Me, and Jesus”

## SHARING OF PRAYER JOYS AND CONCERNS

### CALL TO WORSHIP – Psalm 33:1-5

L: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous. Praise befits the upright.

**C: Praise the Lord with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings.**

L: Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

**C: For the word of the Lord is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness.**

L: He loves righteousness and justice;

**C: the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.**

## WELCOME & NEWS OF THE CHURCH ALIVE

(Please sign Welcome Pad)

\*HYMN #364 “Sing Alleluia, Christ Does Live”

### \*LITURGY FOR MORAVIAN MUSIC SUNDAY

(standing)

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

**Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

MIT FREUDEN ZART (hymn 537)

**Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation,  
the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.**

**My soul with comfort rich he fills, and every grief he gently stills:  
to God all praise and glory!**

(sitting)

Let us give thanks to the Father, who has enabled us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

**He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.**

In him all things in heaven and on earth were created.

**He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.**

Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, to which indeed we were called in the one body.

**Above all, may we clothe ourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.**

REJOICE (151 I, hymn 256)\*

**Lord Jesus, you are worthy for all on earth to praise;  
our hymns in glad thanksgiving in gratitude we raise,  
for all you did on Calv'ry when suffering on the tree –  
the world from sin's dominion most wondrously set free.**

**And I, unworthy sinner when kneeling at your feet,  
can see that my redemption in you is now complete:  
in faith I now would serve you through all my earthly days,  
and then in heav'nly glory my hallelujahs raise.**

(Standing)

Most gracious God, we give you thanks for every good gift. On this day especially we thank you for your creative gifts to us, which cause us to enrich our lives and experience through science and art, literature and drama, words and music.

**For you, O Lord, have made us glad by your work; at the works of your hands we sing for joy.**

We thank you especially for your gifts to the Moravian Church: devotion to the Savior, simplicity, our strong sense of community and fellowship, and our long-standing dedication to spreading your gospel.

**We thank you for our musical heritage, through which we draw closer to you and to one another.**

Inspire and bless those who write and compose, those who play and sing, those who lead and teach.

**As you have helped us through the centuries to sing our faith,  
so move within each one of us today, that all our gifts may unite in  
your service.**

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant us to live in  
harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus,

**In whose holy name we pray. Amen.**

COVENANT (185 A, hymn 346)

**Lamb of God, you shall remain forever of our songs the only theme;  
for your boundless love, your grace and favor,  
we will praise your saving name;  
that for our transgressions you were wounded  
shall by us in nobler strains be sounded,  
when we, perfected in love, once shall join the church above.**

*\* Lord Jesus, you are worthy © Albert H. Frank. Used by permission.*

## STATEMENT FOR MORAVIAN MUSIC SUNDAY

### SCRIPTURE

#### 1 John 4:7-21

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

<sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

<sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those

who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

John 15:1-8

”I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

HYMN #506

“Holy Lord, Holy Lord”

MESSAGE

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

“Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly”

\*RESPONSE

**Praise God, who blesses from above;  
Praise Jesus Christ, God’s living love;  
Praise God, whose Spirit in us lives;**

**We praise you God through what we give. Amen.**

\* OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE WITH PASTORAL PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

\*HYMN #648

“Son of God, Eternal Savior”

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Go My Children, with My Blessing”

\*Stand as able

**WATCHWORD FOR THE WEEK**

Jesus said, “Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. John 15:4

**IN OUR WORSHIP THIS MORNING**

Ministers .....All who serve Jesus Christ  
Pastor.....Rev. Beth Rohn-Habhegger  
Worship Leader ..... Heathear Wellach  
Liturgist & Scripture Readers..... Rhone/Anders Habhegger  
Keyboardist.....Julie Rucks  
POP Musicians.....Brenda Bell, John Gunn, Robin Werth

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

Patty (Schoechert) Beyer, Jan Baker’s daughter (Natalie), Ashley & Kolby Kelnhofer, Marie Kaszuba, Alice Lavin, Jim Laufenberg, Lorraine Abbott, Kevin Straughan, Linda (Behrend) Nelson, Mel Behrend, Jaden (Patty Beyer’s granddaughter), Theresa Marco, Dave Plummer, Neil Nursing/Assisted Living Residents: Mary Lou Eklund, Deb Maier, Bill & Laniece Haferman, Diane Klawikowski, Marilyn Hutter, Janet Hyams, Lucy Severt  
At home: Lloyd Young, Paul & Marie Knipple, Marian Bailey  
Servicemen: Paul & David Eklund, Mason Fellowes, Elias Thelemann

**IN THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION THIS WEEK**

TODAY at 9:00 am.....Sunday School  
10:15 am.....Worship  
MONDAY 2:00-8:40 pm . . . . . Pictorial Directory Photo Sessions  
TUESDAY at 4:30 pm.....TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)  
THURSDAY at 9:30 am.....Alanon  
4:30 pm.....Worship Committee  
FRIDAY at 9:00 am.....Breakfast Bible Study  
SATURDAY at 9:00 am.....Winter Market  
NEXT SUNDAY at 9:00 am.....Sunday School  
10:15 am.....Worship  
11:30 am.....New Member Class

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Our **Joyful Noise** offerings this month will go to **Mary's Place**.
- Just a reminder that a signup sheet for **Coffee Hour hosts** is located in the Social Room. Call the church office (715) 423-0180 or Kathy Plante (715) 459-1110 if you have any questions.
- **POP (Prelude, Offertory and Postlude) musicians** are needed. To schedule a date or check availability, you can call Diane Renner (715-325-5300) or just talk to her at church.
- The Board of Trustees has established a **Donation List** of items that we use around the church. You can find the list on our website or on the bulletin board in the south hallway. You are invited sign up for those items you would be willing to donate.
- **Family Fun Weekend at Mt Morris Camp** is May 31- June 2. Registration forms are available from the back table.
- The **Mother/Child Banquet** is planned for Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, at 4:30 p.m. Tickets for ages 7 and above are \$10; ages 4 – 6 are \$6.50 and children 3 and under are free. Tickets will be on sale Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. Tickets may be purchased from Rosemary Mooney (715-421-9054), Kathy Plante (715-459-1110) or Jenny Ferkey (715-459-5975).

# Broken and Wounded

In John 15, Jesus offers this comprehensive depiction of life through the Vine and the Branches parable. Jesus teaches that our lives, bodies, and beings are the branches connected to him as the Vine. He describes our Father as the Gardener pruning and guiding.

When life experiences cause a relationship, a job, or a project to end, it is like a severed branch. Only the Lord knew that it would not bear healthy fruit. He knew it was for our best that we cut our losses. When life experiences cause us to become uncomfortable, we may experience pruning, a step back to gain perspective, redirect our efforts, and move in a new direction that restores joy and happiness.

As I reflect on the words of Jesus, I study the trees—their different forms, the multiple appendages, the shapes of the leaves—and recognize myself in the branches, some strong and reaching for the heavens, some small and feebly searching for the light, and the colorful fruit that adorns each. I recognize Jesus in the body, solid and sturdy, flexible and swaying with the rhythm of the wind. Our Father is all around us, the sun above, the earth below, the air between. And I am humbled by my existence among such greatness.

And I contemplate the seasons. When we have grown to our full potential, some branches broken through the season storms, some severed and lying on the earth, some bearing the most vibrant array of golds and warmth, shining toward the heavens. One by one, we experience this beautiful falling away, returning to our Giver of life, our Sustenance, our Grounding, where we restfully reflect and renew, so that we may draw on his nourishment, grace, and living water once more. A welcomed rest and reset, a reminder of our connection to our Life-Giving Resource, and a humbled noticing of the mystery of our God. Amen.

*Jodi Heim, pastor, Berea Moravian Church, St. Charles, Minnesota,  
and Our Savior's Moravian Church, Altura, Minnesota*

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## The Moravian Church

Fifth Sunday of Easter  
April 28, 2024

