



The Voice

Wisconsin Rapids Moravian Church
Preparing for Easter

April 2006

There are several opportunities this month for worship, prayer and reflection as we continue the journey through Lent and Holy Week in preparation for the celebration of Easter on Sunday, April 16. Please join us as we remember the sacrifices and sufferings of our Lord and just how much He loves us.

Mid-Week Community Lenten Service

On Wednesday, April 5, we will gather for last Lenten service of the year at the Baker Street Community Church at 7:00 p.m.

Palm Sunday – April 9

“Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” Our vocal choir will lead us in singing the familiar Hosanna as well as share a special choral presentation of Lenten/Easter music.



Holy Week – Monday, April 10 - Wednesday, April 12

Each evening, we will gather at 7:00 p.m. to read and sing through the Readings for Holy Week, a compilation of the last week of Jesus' life as told through the four gospels.

Maundy Thursday, April 13

Maundy Thursday, also called Holy Thursday, commemorates the evening just before the crucifixion when Jesus and his friends broke bread together for the Last Supper. We welcome all to come, in remembrance of Him, to share in the service of Holy Communion at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 14

Good Friday, a day of terrible suffering and sacrifice, a day of crucifixion. We invite you to join us in remembrance of He who bore his crown of thorns willingly, arose from the dead, and defeated death that we might have eternal life. We will gather at 3:00 p.m. at our church for a Tenebrae service and to conclude the Readings for Holy Week. The Community Good Friday Service is at the United Methodist Church in Wisconsin Rapids at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 16



“The Lord is risen! The Lord is risen indeed!” On Easter we celebrate the foundation of our faith: the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We begin the morning with a Sunrise Service at 6:00 a.m. We will gather in the sanctuary and then conclude the service at Forest Hill Cemetery. The youth will serve breakfast at 7:00 a.m. Church School classes will meet at 9:00 a.m. and our church family will gather again for worship at 10:15 a.m.

Pastor's pen

In the midst of settling in, unpacking books, and generally getting adjusted to life and ministry in Rapids, a surprising offer arrived. The offer came from the Provincial Elders Conference, a leadership group in our denomination. The PEC chose our congregation and four others to offer 20,000 dollar advertising grants to. Wow.

I grew up in the Moravian Church and it was not until 1997 that I saw an ad for one! The whole idea of advertising, and 20,000 worth of it, is both excited and daunting.

How can we do this? By what means? Who especially do we want to reach out to? What do we want our community to know about us? How do we advertise in a way that honors Christ and our commitment to serve? Is this the time to start a new ministry and let the community know about it and us at the same time?

I put the letter on the first board meeting (literally our first together) and continued to unpack. As I placed books on shelves and clothing in closets, I came to realize that God is calling us to something new. Not only a new pastorate. Not only an advertising grant. Something new, some new way of serving and honoring Christ right here in this place.

Our congregation is physically placed in an area where many are in need. Many are lonely, many are isolated, many are poor, many are overwhelmed with life's demands, many are in need. How can our congregation serve them?

An advertising task force has been formed. We are already working on discerning answers and praying for guidance. We must have a plan formatted by the end of May.

From you, the congregation, I ask for your prayers to be directed toward this effort. Join with us in praying for us to find positive and meaningful ways of advertising, effective ways to share our message, and ways to honor Christ and one another in the process.

-Tammie

Community outreach projects

March

March was designated as Humane Society Month. Those interested contributed food, laundry detergent, garbage bags and other items needed for our furry friends.

April

We encourage you to bring items for the Benefit Rummage Sale for Karen King Spencer on Saturday, April 22. Items can be dropped off starting April 19.



I have contacted Joan Andersen from Makovik, Labrador explaining to her that we would like to continue to help them with things they need and are unable to get. I will let you know when I receive more information from her.

May God bless you!

In Christ's love, Yvonne Totzke (423-

8136)

Adopt a village project

The five area Moravian churches will be working together to feed aids orphans in Africa. A kick-off event is planned for Sunday, May 7 at 12 noon. A dinner and fellowship, pie auction, and display of African crafts is planned. There will be activities for all ages. Mark this down on your calendar and watch for further information in next month's newsletter.

What does the church do best?

What does the church do best that no other organization on earth can do? We tell the story of Jesus Christ. We try to preserve the truth of God's inexplicable love for his creation. Who can tell the truth about the Father better than the members of his own family?

No school, no business, no government, no other institution can adequately describe our God. So we come together each Sunday. Like at a weekly family reunion we share family stories, the memories, and we create new memories, inviting others to be part of this great family.

-Jim Tinkey

First Presbyterian Church, Bellefonte, PA

Christ is risen! In faith we follow Him in mission.

For the past year, the Provincial Elders' Conference of the Moravian Church, Northern Province has been going through a vision and mission process. Through this process, the statement above was developed as their mission statement. Also a vision statement was developed: **The Risen Christ leads! We follow as a Great Commandment and Great Commission Church.**

As these words of vision and mission were further discussed by all gathered, it was clear that each echoed the core values of our faith tradition. The Moravian Church Northern Province is:

- A Church that has its primary focus on Jesus.
- A Church that makes disciples.

- A Church that truly loves the disciplines of worship, study and prayer.
- A Church that serves.
- A Church that extends love, understanding and compassion to all people.
- A Church that develops and provides leadership.
- A Church that is led by the teaching of the Holy Spirit.
- A Church that is open to new and exciting possibilities of mission.

These are but a few ways that Christ will call us to be the Church. As we plan for the Provincial Synod to be held June 15-19, may the Lord prepare us in ways consistent with these words of vision and mission. And we urge you to pray about the meaning of these statements for our congregation and our individuals ministries.

We need your input

The Christian Education Committee and the Board of Elders are looking for feedback from the congregation. Please take a few minutes to fill out the surveys below. You may return them directly to the church office or place them in an offering plate. Thank you for your participation.

Survey Vacation Bible School July 17-21

I would prefer having Vacation Bible School during the

___ Morning

___ Evening (5:30 - 8 p.m.)

___ Evening (6 - 8:30 p.m.)

Survey Summer Sunday Worship Schedule

I would prefer having Sunday worship during the summer at :

___ 9:00 a.m.

___ 9:30 a.m.

___ 10:15 a.m.

Moravian women's notes

Circles 1 & 2 – Wed., April 19 at 1 p.m.
at church; Joyce Komppa & Fay
Henriksen, hostesses

Wednesday, April 5 @ 9:30 a.m. –
Moravian Women's Executive Board

This month the Moravian Women will be selling tickets to their Annual Mother-Daughter Dinner on Wednesday, May 3. Reservations must be received by Monday, April 24. Please call Marvella Peterson, Lucy Severt or Betty Hoekstra for ticket information.

Flowers Housekeeping
Circle 2 April Circle 1
Circle 1 May Circle 2

Senior Moravians
Friday, April 7
12 noon
Potluck Dinner

Program: Roy and Dawn Wesenberg
will share their experiences of helping with the rebuilding efforts along the Gulf Coast.

Benefit rummage sale and dance for Karen Spencer

The family of Karen Spencer will be hosting a Benefit Rummage Sale to be held at the Moravian Church in the basement Fellowship Hall on April 22, 2006. Karen needs to have a kidney and pancreas transplant due to struggling for years with diabetes.

We are in need of donations of gently used items such as clothing, housewares, toys, baby items, tools, etc. Your donations will be sold at the Benefit Rummage Sale. All proceeds will help Karen.

Collection of donations will begin Wednesday, April 19th. You may also call Debbie at 344-3824 for additional information.

We will also be holding a Benefit Dance from 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm at Memories Banquet Hall in Plover on Sunday, April 9, 2006. We will also be holding Raffles for various items. Everyone is invited to attend. Free admission.

Your donation, large or small, will be greatly appreciated! Thank you from the family of Karen Spencer!

Debbie McGill (sister)

Rummage Sale Coordinator 344-3824

Bruce King (brother)

Dance Coordinator 423-4455

Mike & Nancy King (parents)

Ashley & Joshua Spencer (children)

Playpen needed

We are in need of a new or gently used fold away crib or playpen for our nursery. Please call the church office if you can provide this item.

Around the community

What: Children's Festival

Theme: "Day at the Beach"

Where: Lincoln High School

When: Saturday, April 8

Time: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Price: Free

The **Palm Sunday Chorus** will present its 53rd annual concert of sacred choral music on Sunday, April 9 at 3 p.m. at **Our Lady of Peace Church, Marshfield**. This annual holiday program is a popular area tradition and an inspirational beginning to Holy Week. One hundred fifty singers from throughout central Wisconsin have formed an interfaith volunteer chorus to sing an uplifting selection of sacred works and spirituals. Greg Reiersen will be our guest conductor and area instrumentalists will join concert accompanists Kathy Biederwolf and Maxine Johnson to compliment the singing. Area singers will appear as soloists this year. The Palm Sunday concert is free and you are cordially invited to attend.

The **Veedum Moravian Church** will be having a **Beef Stroganoff Lunch and Bake Sale** on Sunday, April 30 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Costs are adults - \$5.50; children ages 6-12 - \$3.00; preschooler are free.

Dr. Dale Kastberg will give an **organ concert** on Friday, May 19 at **St. John's Episcopal Church** at 7:00 p.m. The majority of the works will be of the Baroque era featuring Bach, Pachelbel, Walther and Mendelssohn. He will also present a master class for organists on Saturday, May 20. Further information is available in the church office.

Thank you

The South Wood Emergency Pantry Shelf gratefully acknowledges your recent donations. You are such faithful donors! Many thanks also to your volunteers who help staff the Pantry. We depend on your service.

SWEPS volunteers packed food requests for 86 families in January and 59 families in February. Each family is given enough food for 7 days. On behalf of the families who will benefit from your gift – thank you.

*Sincerely,
Judy Steele
SWEPS Board*

Plus 50 camp

June 8 - 11

Mt. Morris Moravian Camp
Theme: Encouraging Others

(Biblical Models for Caring)

Director: The Rev. Beth Macha
Watch for registration forms.

Congregational watchword

O Lord, I love the house in which you dwell, and the place where your glory abides.

Psalm 26:8



The Board of Elders met on March 6 and 19 with quorums present.

- The minutes from previous meeting were accepted.
- Reviewed Community Outreach.
- Received response regarding video taping of services from the PEC. Matter will require further investigation.
- Four members will be attending the District Conference in Fargo. The Elders' Fund will provide financial assistance.
- Arranged volunteers for assisting with Maundy Thursday Holy Communion.
- Approved reception of Dennis and Lisa Anderson and Mark and Luanne Zager into our communicant membership.
- Received report from Christian Education Committee.
- Received information on Aids Orphans in Africa Project. There will be an information meeting on March 12.
- Discussed summer worship schedule. A survey will be placed in April's newsletter.
- Discussed Holy Week services.
- Next meeting will be April 3.

The Board of Trustees met on March 15 and March 26 with quorums present.

- The minutes from previous meeting were accepted.

- The Treasurer's Report was received.
Motions were made and carried to accept the report and to pay the bills.
- Continued discussion on updating the computer system in the offices. We are waiting for a proposal from Zack's Computers.
- Continue to gather information on heating updates.
- An additional handicap parking space will be created underneath the basketball hoop.
- Committee appointments were made.
- Approved replacing the water heater at the parsonage.
- Next meeting will be Wednesday, April 12.

The Joint Board met on March 8.

- The minutes from previous meeting was accepted.
- Accepted the resignation of Kevin Straughan from the Board of Trustees due to work.
Appointed Bill Mohr to fill-out his term.
- Recommendations were made to fill two vacancies on the Endowment Committee.
- Discussed the advertising grant from the Provincial Elders Conference and made recommendations for persons to serve on the Task Force.
- Requested another meeting with Chi-Chi Messick from the Moravian Ministries Foundation to continue the process of visioning started last fall.

Mission statement

We, the Wisconsin Rapids Moravian Church, a community of believers in Jesus Christ, are called by God to minister to individuals and families, to grow spiritually and proclaim the Gospel. We recognize God's love and bountiful resources in all we do.

February statistics

Beginning 2006 Balance =	-\$73.51
Income through 2/28/06 =	\$28,778.90
Expenses =	\$33,781.56
General Fund Balance =	-\$5,076.17
Ave. Needed/Week to Meet Budget	
	=\$3,612.98
Ave. For the Year Received =	\$3,119.99
Ave. Attendance for February =	136

Who's poor?

A wealthy man took his son to the country to teach the boy about poor people. They spent several days and nights on the farm of a poor family.

When they returned home, the father asked his son, "What do you think now that you've seen how poor people live?"

The son answered, "I saw that we have one dog and they have four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden, but they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lanterns in our garden, but they have the stars at night. Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon. We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight. We have servants who serve us, but they serve others. We buy our food, but they grow theirs. We have walls around our property to protect us, but they have friends to protect them."

The boy's father was speechless.

Then his son added, "Thanks, Dad, for showing me how poor we are."

-NewsletterNewsletter

Easter gift

When we love Jesus, the risen Christ, we may not be able to paint him or to write poetry about him, but we are able to see him alive in the world. We are able to recognize him. It's his Easter gift. We can recognize him now in a stranger on the road, in a restaurant, in the sick, the hungry, the thirsty. His Easter gift to us is the capacity to see him in other persons.

To be an Easter Christian is to see something, somewhere, of Jesus Christ in every person you meet and come to love, for love has its own peculiar vision. When you do love another person, you see something of Christ in them, you see a beauty that nobody else can see, that is opened, unfolded, given only to love. You see a marvel, a greatness, a treasure, a grandeur, a unique possibility hidden to the ordinary view.

And you know, we need now and then when we see a beauty and a marvel in each other, to tell each other about it, because sometimes the last one to know that Christ is alive in a person is that person. And to know it is a resurrection. To be an Easter Christian is to be a catcher of souls – on the road, in the restaurant. It is to be a looker for the lost, a finder of the lonely, a liberator of the captive. It is to see the whole human family with new eyes, to love each person you see.

-Robert Raines

<http://www.moravianmission.org>



In our church family

Birthdays

04/01 Shawn Chasteen, Richard Buchholz

04/02 Susan Eckes

04/04 Chad Eckes, Tyler Burgeson

04/06 Sheila Riemer

04/07 Nancy Baldwin

04/08 Delmar Stenberg

04/09 Bruce King, Dakota Elvers

04/10 Karen Buchholz

04/11 Malia Ironside, Andre` Shaurette

04/14 Bethany Anderson

04/16 Peg Maier

04/17 Thomas Voight, Kay Ward

04/18 Deanne Fellowes

04/19 Brian Jacoby, Andrew Buchholz

04/21 Louise Saeger, Jack Ninneman

04/22 Alice Elvers

04/23 Shirley Hanneman, Jill Kemp

04/24 Dave Mehlbrech, Dale Mehlbrech,

Gene Nelson, Amanda Swiggum,

Gage Simon

04/25 Marah Narel

04/26 Lori Whitney, Rylie Elvers

Anniversaries

04/01 Gary & Debbie King
04/03 Dave & Karen Mehlbrech
04/04 Lee & Susan Fletcher
04/08 Arnold & Shirley Baltus
04/12 Thomas & Judy Voight
04/15 David & Renee` Jensen
04/21 Myron & Nancy King
04/23 Dean & Jean Irwin
James & Brenda Simon
04/28 William & Donna Bailey
04/29/1989 Beth Frank
04/30 James & Rosemary Mooney

Change of address

Kay Doll 1200 Huntington Ave #302
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

Received into communicant membership

on March 26 by Reaffirmation of Faith: Dennis and Lisa Anderson and Mark and Luanne Zager; also received into non-communicant membership: Amanda Zager

Hospitalized

Shirley Baltus, Katie Behrend

Homebound

Ila Barth

Nursing/group home residents

Riverview Manor: Danny Hedin, Velma Riemer
Harmony House: Louise Saeger
The Renaissance: Ellen Young
Out-of-town homes: Kathryn Woodworth,
Vern Boldt

Pastoral care

If you or a loved one is hospitalized, please call the church office. We are not always contacted by the hospital. For emergency pastoral care, you may call the parsonage at 423-3349.

Save your empty inkjet and laser cartridges

Save your empty inkjet and laser cartridges

Recycle your empty inkjet and laser cartridges. Just place them in a plastic bag and then deposit them in the recycling box in the hallway by the church office.

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage

PAID

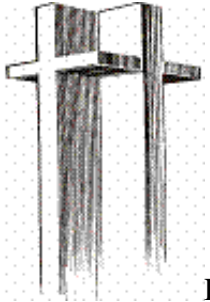
Permit #176

Wis. Rapids WI

54494



The Moravian Church
310 First Avenue South
Wisconsin Rapids WI 54495-4155



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sunday, April 2

Set your clocks ahead one hour.