



# The Voice

## Wisconsin Rapids Moravian Church May 2006

### **Pastor's pen**

When I was in college, I waited tables at a popular hotel in Bethlehem. Mother's Day was by far the busiest day for us, even busier than New Year's Eve. To accommodate the crowds the management would close the two restaurants and operate only out of the ballroom. The kitchen and housekeeping staff would go all out decorating for the event – flowers everywhere, multiple ice sculptures, etc. Walking into the room before guests arrived was just wonderful. Year after year everything was perfect, everything was lovely.

But then, the guests would arrive. Multiple generations would crowd around the tables with Mom as the guest of honor. Families together in their finest clothing, a beautiful ballroom, wonderful food, and yet very few seemed happy. Mother's Day for wait-staff was the most difficult day of the year. The food and drink, which delighted guests other days, was not good enough. The service, which won praises other days, was not fast enough. The room was alternately declared too hot, too cold, and smelled too strongly of flowers.

Disgruntled family members would seek relief at the service bar. It seemed as though family members were trying to cram an entire lifetime of relationship into one meal. It made me wonder how many families were here at the nicest place in town out of guilt. Guilt that they hadn't called, hadn't visited, hadn't done much of anything with Mom. A healthy and meaningful relationship of depth needs time. Time to be together, time to share meals, time to talk.

Really, the Christian life needs the same tending. We need time to be together with other Christians, time to share Holy Communion, and time to pray. Spending time with other Christians helps to mutually strengthen our faith. Partaking of Holy Communion welcomes Christ into the most intimate places of our lives. Praying opens the dialogue being offered by God.

Mostly, Mothers want and need some of our time to foster good relationships. Mostly, God needs and wants our time to be in meaningful relationship with us.

## Community outreach projects

### May

Unfortunately when economic times are uncertain and people are having a hard time making ends meet, stress levels rise and domestic abuse escalates.



May's project will be the Family Center. The Family Center is a safe haven for the abused to go until they can get away from their abuser and get their life back in order.

Some items needed are: Laundry soap                      Dish detergent  
Garbage bags    Gently used clothing  
Food

Personal items such as: Toothbrushes                      Feminine products  
Toothpaste    Nail clippers  
Shampoo/conditioner                      Toilet paper  
Soap    Kleenex  
Deodorant    Etc.

A more complete list will be posted on the easel.

Future projects: 1) School supplies for area youth.  
2) I'm still waiting to hear from Labrador on how we can help them.



Church Camp

## Summer camps for all ages

The registration forms for summer camps have now arrived and are available in the Social Room. Located also on the table are the health forms. The green forms are for minors and need to be filled

out by a physician, nurse practitioner, or certified physician's assistant. The gold forms are for those who campers or staff who are over 18 and record basic health information.

Remember that there are scholarship funds available from both the Western District and from our own congregation, so please don't allow the cost of camp hinder you from participating. Something new this year is the Board of Trustees approved offering a 20% scholarship for adults who are attending either the 50+ Camp or the Wilderness Canoe Camp.

## **Adopt A Village**

### **Moravian Churches Serving Together to Assist AIDS Orphans**



**Kellner \* Rudolph \* Saratoga  
Wisconsin Rapids**

**Veedum**

**Kickoff Picnic  
Sunday, May 7**

**Noon - ?  
Wisconsin Rapids Moravian Church**

**Brats & Hot Dogs  
African Crafts**

**Covered Dish  
Games**

### Moravian women's notes

Circles 1 & 2 – Wed., May 31 at 1 p.m.  
at church; Marvella Peterson and  
Jennifer Lukowicz, hostesses

The Area Moravian Women's Sectional will be held on Wednesday, May 17 with registration at 5:30 p.m. and a potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m. The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. Dawn & Roy Wesenberg will share their experiences of helping with rebuilding efforts along the Gulf Coast

Flowers                      Housekeeping

Circle 1    May                  Circle 2

Circle 2    June                  Circle 1

### A Christian mother & her wayward son

In the fourth century there was a dedicated Christian woman named Monica who lived in what is now Algeria. Her husband was Patricius, a wealthy landowner but a pagan. They had a son whom they named Augustine, born in 354.



Monica's passionate desire was that her son would be a Christian. Therefore, not only did she expose him to the teachings of Christianity, she also prayed for him daily.

Augustine was a brilliant but difficult boy. As he struggled through his teen years, he

brought sorrow to his mother because he did not embrace her faith. He became a father at 17. He assumed responsibility for the son and the mother as well, but only as his common law wife.

Augustine also began to explore a pagan religion called Manichaeism. He continued his schooling but his life was counter to all of his mother's prayers. One day, while fervently praying for her son, Monica heard a voice that said, "It cannot be that the son of these tears shall perish."

Augustine decided to go to Milan, Italy, to study. While there, he went to hear a gifted Christian preacher, Bishop Ambrose, not so much for his sermons but for the brilliant rhetoric he used and his unique oratorical style. But while listening, Augustine began to feel a disturbance within. The Holy Spirit was at work in his spirit.

One day while sitting in his garden, he heard a voice like that of a child. The voice said, "Take up and read." Augustine reached for a Bible which lay open. His eyes fell upon Romans 13:13-14. "Let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness ... But put on the Lord Jesus Christ ...."

That was Augustine's conversion experience. He became a priest and ultimately was chosen Bishop of Hippo in Africa. For 30 years he preached and wrote about the

Christian faith. He was so dedicated that the church today refers to him as Saint Augustine and his persistent praying mother as Saint Monica. St. Augustine, Florida, and Santa Monica, California, are named for them.

## News from around the District

**Vicki-Jens Page**, an approved candidate for Moravian ministry, was installed as 3/4-time student pastor at East Side Moravian Church, Green Bay, Wisconsin, on February 12, 2006. Vicki is a student at United Theological Seminary in the Twin Cities.

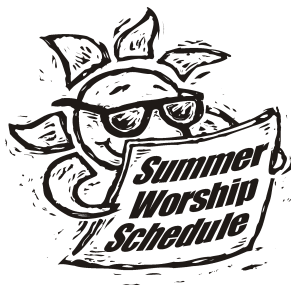
The Western District Executive Board has issued an appointment, and the **Rev. Olaf Andersen** has accepted and will continue serving as part-time pastor of Saratoga Moravian Church in Central Wisconsin. His recent milestone birthday placed him in official retirement status, but he continues to serve under appointment.

On April 1 **Christie Gibbons**, a recent graduate of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, began a three-month Try Ministry internship at the Watertown Moravian Church in Wisconsin. She will shadow Pastor Barbara Berg as she explores her call to ordained ministry within the Moravian Church. Christie's home is in Iowa. While in college she went 'church shopping' and stopped shopping around after worshipping at the Main Street Moravian Church where the Rev. Dr. Amy Gohdes-Luhman is pastor. Her first date with

fiancé David Melby was the Easter Dawn worship service at Main Street church. She and David will be married in early August.

The WDEB is pleased to make the announcement that **Michael Eder** who has been serving as Chaplain at Auburn Village in Chaska, Minnesota has accepted the appointment of the WDEB to serve as full-time pastor of the Chaska Moravian Church. He will begin serving there on May 1. Installation is scheduled for May 7.

The **Rev. Larry Christianson** has submitted his resignation as District President to pursue a call to specialized ministry in chaplaincy with Moravian Care Ministries at both Chaska and Waconia facilities. A new district president will be selected by Western District delegates to the Northern Province Synod in June. Please prayerfully remember Larry and his wife Norma during this transitional period and as he begins his new work in mid-August.



From Memorial Day Weekend  
through Labor Day Weekend

(May 28 - September 3)

9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Worship

Help to build bridges of intercultural understanding by sharing your home and daily life with an AFS high school exchange student. AFS students come from countries around the world, arrive in the U.S. year-round, and live with host families for a year or semester. The ways in which students participate in family, school, and community life help build a greater understanding of and appreciation for the many different cultures of the world. For more information about how you can bring the world to your family, contact local volunteer Amy Myers at 715-236-3548 or [afsmyers@hotmail.com](mailto:afsmyers@hotmail.com).

### Around the community

**Powerful Tools for Caregivers**, a training course for caregivers, will be offered at the Centralia Center on Mondays from May 8 through June 19 from 1:30 - 4:00 p.m. For more information, please call Judy Steinke at 421-8900.

The **Home Delivered Meals Program** at Riverview Hospital is in need of volunteer drivers. The routes that are in need of volunteers are in Wisconsin Rapids. Meals are picked up in the Dietary Department at 11:15 a.m. for delivery and take approximately one hour to deliver. Meals are delivered either in teams of 2 people or by single volunteers. Churches may also want to consider volunteering as a church. Volunteer drivers are needed Monday through Friday. An orientation for new volunteers is provided. To find out more about this opportunity or to volunteer, contact Mary Schoonover at 421-7447.

**Summer Bocce Ball League** meets Wednesday evenings from June 21 through August 23 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. They play at Ben Hanson, Robinson and Sandlot Parks. For further information, contact Helen Streekstra at 424-2105.

St. Luke's Lutheran Church will be holding their **Spring Salad Luncheon and Bake Sale** on May 9 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. 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.

### In our church library

*Trading Your Worry for Wonder* by Cheri Fuller (A woman's guide to overcoming anxiety)

The author shares that when we fret and worry, its like wearing sun glasses. We shut out the light and can't see what God is doing on our behalf or how He's moving. Then we miss the joy. Fear and anxiety also keep us from learning what God is trying to teach us through the experience. If we choose to offer thanks to God and look for things to praise Him for, we will see His loving hand at every turn – which will change our worry to wonder. A very helpful book.



**The Board of Elders** met on April 3 with a quorum present.

- The minutes from previous meeting were accepted.
- Discussed AIDS Orphans Ministry and the area picnic following worship on May 7.
- Discussed Good Friday Tenebrae and Palm Sunday services.
- Approved using monies from the Elders' - Fund to cover expenses related to Chi-Chi Messick's visit with the Joint Board.

- Arranged volunteers to assist with Holy Communion on May 7.
- Approved baptism of Hallie and Morgan Anderson on April 30.
- Received presentation by Diane Klawikowski from the Western District Executive Board.
- Approved Joyful Noise offerings to help with expenses of mission group going to Mississippi and to match up to \$300.00 using Elders' Funds.
- Approved a week of vacation for Pastor Tammie (July 14-21).
- Discussed guidelines for nursery caregivers.
- Next meeting will be May 1.

**The Board of Trustees** met on April 19 with quorum 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.
- Pastor Tammie will set up a meeting with our sound system volunteers to provide training and consistent sound quality.
- Approved purchase of new cassette player and second lapel mike.
- Continued discussion on updating the computer system in the offices.
- Continue to gather information on heating updates.
- Approved purchase of new ovens/stoves for kitchen with financial assistance from the Moravian Women.
- John Anderson announced that Ostomy Matthew and Bruce King have accepted appointment to the Endowment Fund Committee.
- Approved request to paint the choir room.
- Approved camp scholarships for the coming year.
- Next meeting will be Wednesday, June 14.

### **Congregational watchword**

O Lord, I love the house in which you dwell,  
and the place where your glory abides.  
Psalm 26:8

### **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.

## March statistics

Beginning 2006 Balance =	(\$73.51)
Income through 3/31/06 =	\$41,817.39
Expenses =	\$51,179.02
General Fund Balance =	(\$9,435.14)
Avg. Needed/Week to Meet Budget	
=	\$3,612.98
Avg. For the Year Received =	\$3,063.62
Avg. Attendance for March =	126

## The way I give and the God I have

- If I give so that I will be rewarded ... God is Santa Claus.
- If I give so that I claim an exception on my tax form ... God is a CPA.
- If I give so I can impress my friends ... God is my PR agent.
- If I give to avoid punishment ... God is a bandit.
- If I give so that I can express my love and so that others may hear the gospel ... God is God.

## Thank you

The South Wood County Humane Society would like to say thank you and bless you for your donation of food, treats, detergent and garbage bags. The staff and animals appreciate your kind hearts and I know if they could talk they would say - "You're special to us." You are and always will be part of our animal family. Thank you again.

*and The Dogs and Cats*

Thank you for your cards, gifts and prayers on the death of my wife. A special thank you to Pastor Tammie for her care and concern. God bless you all.

We would like to thank everyone who coordinated the use of the church facility, donated items, volunteered their time, and purchased items to make the Benefit Rummage Sale for Karen Spencer a huge success! Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Please continue to keep Karen in your prayers.

*Thank you,  
Debbie & Jim McGill  
Bruce King  
Nancy & Mike King  
Ashley & Josh Spencer*

To Our Church Family,  
My sincere thanks to all of you for your prayers and well wishes. Your support with the Benefit Rummage Sale is greatly appreciated. The donations and hard work of all involved made it a huge success! I praise God for the miracle of being next on the list for the transplant and I thank you in advance for your continued prayers! God's blessings to you and yours.

*Love,  
Karen Spencer and Family*

## 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. <http://www.moravianmission.org>

## In our church family

### Birthdays

05/01 Terry Barnes  
05/04 Kay Heller  
05/05 Arnold Baltus, Jessie Shearier  
05/06 Kenneth Jinsky  
05/07 Ida Totzke  
05/08 Roy Wesenberg, Crystal Glodoski  
05/09 Clifford Burgeson  
05/11 Melvin Behrend  
05/13 Arvilla Zimmerman, John Buchholz,  
Lillian Moffett  
05/15 Kathryn Woodworth  
05/16 Jean Berrend  
05/17 Brent Baltus, Andrew Voight  
05/18 William Mohr, Kathi Pagel,  
Ashlyn Fellowes  
05/20 Bernice Athorp  
05/22 Mason Fellowes  
05/24 John Kruger, Francis Eklund  
05/25 Joyce Komppa  
05/26 Janci Treutel  
05/28 Lisa Anderson, Holly Schmitz  
05/29 Staci Dewitt  
05/31 Mary Eastling, Mary Lou Eklund

### Anniversaries

05/01 Eric & Lisa Voight

05/05 Bill & Laurie Williams  
05/06 Jon & Patricia Quisler  
05/07 Ronald & Dorothy Langsdorf  
David & Holly Livernash  
05/09 Kenneth & Joyce Fritz  
05/14 John & Patricia Knoll  
Dennis & Rebecca Jacoby  
05/20 Dennis & Lisa Anderson  
05/25 William & Noi Mohr  
05/26 Matt & Crystal Glodoski  
05/26 Richard & Betty Hoekstra  
05/27 John Gunn & Jill Kemp  
05/29 Ronald & Ida Totzke

### Baptisms

Hallie Dane and Morgan Kay Anderson on April  
30 (daughters of Dennis & Lisa Anderson)

### Funeral

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family  
of Lorraine Otto who died on April 11; her  
funeral service was held on April 15

### Hospitalized

Bob Kester, Arnold Baltus

### Homebound

Ila Barth

## Nursing/group home residents

Riverview Manor: Danny Hedin, Velma Riemer

Strawberry Lane: Bob Kester

Harmony House: Louise Saeger

The Renaissance: Ellen Young

Out-of-town homes: Kathryn Woodworth,  
Vern Boldt

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit #176

Wis. Rapids WI  
54494

## 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.



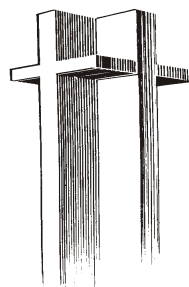
Encourage  
one another  
and build up  
each other....

1 Thessalonians 5:11, NRSV

SUNDAY, MAY 7



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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED