



THIS IS HOW WE KNOW WHAT LOVE IS:
**JESUS CHRIST LAID DOWN
HIS LIFE FOR US.**

1 JOHN 3:16

Wisconsin Rapids Moravian Church

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

“Sharing Christ, Serving People”

Sunday, April 21, 2024

4th Sunday of Easter

PRELUDE: “Speak to Me Lord”

SHARING OF PRAYER JOYS AND CONCERNS

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God gathers us into the flock of believers and gives us the Great Shepherd to follow.

C: Whoever enters the fold by him will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.

L: We are known by the Great Shepherd, we hear his voice and we seek to follow.

C: We open our ears to hear the voice of the One who calls us by name. We open our hearts to the love of the One who laid down his life for us. We worship our God who provides the way to goodness and mercy all the days of our lives.

WELCOME & NEWS OF THE CHURCH ALIVE

(Please sign Welcome Pad)

*HYMN #731 “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

LITURGY: A JOURNEY THROUGH PSALM 23 by Rev. Rick Beck

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

I want so much, Lord. I desire so many things that promise to make my life easier, fuller or more exciting and meaningful. And yet the “things” of this life do not provide the fullness of life. Give me wisdom to know my wants from my needs. Give me eyes to see the fullness of my life in you. Give me a heart that is willing to journey with the Shepherd.

He makes me lie down in green pastures.

Because of you, Lord, my life is fertile. You planted the seed of faith in my heart and you cause it to grow. Everything in my life; the joys, the sorrows, the worries, the discoveries have been embraced by your love and contribute to who I am today.

He leads me beside still waters.

Although there is turbulence in life, your spirit fills me with peace and calm. There is a stillness that you provide when I find myself navigating troubled waters. Protect me from fear, worry and anger when life becomes threatening, that I might enjoy life as you intended it.

He restores my soul.

Lord, when circumstances of life threaten to defeat me you offer healing to me. Even if I question your presence in my life or if worry overwhelms me and I wonder if I can go on, you refresh my soul. In time you breathe new life into me. You fill me with so much of yourself that the world simply becomes the place where I come to know you.

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

When I look back at my life; see the choices that I have made, I stand humbled and acknowledge your guidance. I seek your wisdom as I face each day. I ask that you journey with me one step at a time.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley I fear no evil for you are with me; your rod and your staff – they comfort me.

Challenges will come. They will threaten to take my breath away. But your breath remains. Your Spirit guards my life. You give me hope. You give me peace and the warmth of your Son brings a smile to my heart.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

You have invited me to a party in your honor. There is a place for me at your table; in your kingdom. With all the faithful, Lord, you have welcomed me to break bread with you and confess my faith in your love. Those who ridiculed me because of my faith will see your glory in me. Let them see it now so that they might take their place at your table also.

You anoint my head with oil.

You have chosen me, Lord, for a holy purpose. You have gifted me to perform your work. You have called me to do your will. Convict me with your Spirit so that I might never betray you and assure me of your forgiveness in the event that I do.

My cup overflows.

The words of my mouth are attempts to express what can not be spoken. My life is so full; so rich that only my heart can sing the praise that you deserve. In my greatest moments of emptiness, Lord, you fill me up. Fill me now with your truth; your Word.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life. **It doesn't matter where I live, where I work, where I travel, who I am with or how long I walk this earth. If I bring you with me, my journey will be blessed.**

And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long. **May my life be a prayer. May my life be a witness. May my life be my confession of faith in you, Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

TUNE: HAYN (82 D)

**Jesus makes my heart rejoice, I'm his sheep and know his voice;
he's a shepherd kind and gracious, and his pastures are delicious;
constant love to me he shows, yea, my very name he knows.**

**Trusting his mild staff always, I go in and out in peace;
he will feed me with the treasure of his grace in riches measure;
when a-thirst to him I cry, living water he'll supply.**

**Should not I for gladness leap, led by Jesus as his sheep?
For when these blessed days are over to the arms of my dear Savior
I shall be conveyed to rest. Amen, yea, my lot is blessed.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE WITH PASTORAL PRAYER

With blessing of those participating in the Western District Synod

SCRIPTURE 1 John 3:16-24

¹⁶We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

John 10:11-18

¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

HYMN #444 “Grace and Peace from God”

MESSAGE

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY “Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore”

*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

*HYMN #673 “Christian Hearts, in Love United”

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

*Stand as able

IN OUR WORSHIP THIS MORNING

MinistersAll who serve Jesus Christ
Pastor.....Rev. Beth Rohn-Habhegger
Liturgist & Scripture Reader.....Bob Renner
Keyboardist.....Jan Baker
POP Musicians.....Milo & Kathy Plante

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, Marion 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
11:30 am.....New Member Class
TUESDAY at 4:30 pm.....TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)
THURSDAY at 9:30 am.....Alanon
THURSDAY thru SUNDAY.....Western District Synod
SATURDAY at 9:00 am.....Winter Market
NEXT SUNDAY at 9:00 am.....Sunday School
10:15 am.....Worship

WATCHWORD FOR THE WEEK

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life
for the sheep."
John 10:11

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.
- We have added a second day for picture taking for **our pictorial directory**, Tuesday, May 21. Sign-up aid is available following worship. Please see Pastor Beth in the Social Room.
- We are still in need of **large boxes** to sort books into for the **Fall Book Sale**. Please bring them to the church by May 15th.

Jesus Knew His Why

About six or seven years ago Simon Sinek, David Meade, and Peter Docker authored a book entitled *Find Your Why*. This book encourages its readers to explore why you do what you do. It summons the readers to look at their calling, their conviction, their mission statement, or their vision of their life's work.

People have talked about this work by the three authors. I would like to suggest that this sentiment has been around for a very long time. In the tenth chapter of the Gospel of John, specifically in verses 11–18, the Gospel writer records Jesus as claiming who he is and what he has been called or appointed or gifted to be able to do.

Jesus says, “I am the good shepherd.” He knows who he is. Jesus goes on to say, “The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep” (John 10:11). Jesus knows what is to come for him. He knows that he must go to the cross. But he willingly accepts that because he knows what his *why* is, for this world and for eternal life. So we have an example in Scripture of someone who understands and lives out their *why*. Perhaps we ought to do the same.

Have you done enough contemplating to know what your *why* is? Are you living out your why to the glory of God and to enhance God's kingdom? If not yet, I would encourage you to do so. There is no time like the present.

*Bruce Nelson, president of the Western District Executive Board,
Lake Mills, Wisconsin*

The Moravian Church

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024

