



Wisconsin Rapids Moravian Church

310 First Avenue South 715-423-0180

www.wrmoravian.org

"Sharing Christ, Serving People"

Sunday, December 29, 2024

1st Sunday after Christmas

³ Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!
⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens
and you waters above the heavens!
⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for he commanded and they were created.
⁶ He established them forever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.^[a]
⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,
⁸ fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!
⁹ Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!
¹⁰ Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!
¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
¹² Young men and women alike,
old and young together!
¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.
¹⁴ He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the LORD!

Colossians 3:12-17

Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord^[f] has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ^[g] rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ^[h] dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.^[i] ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Luke 2:41-52

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for

the festival. ⁴³ When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents were unaware of this. ⁴⁴ Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents^[i] saw him they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously looking for you." ⁴⁹ He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"^[k] ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹ Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them, and his mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years^[l] and in divine and human favor.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: "The Quiet Carol"

*RESPONSE (tune DIX pg. 190 vs. 2)

**As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and bare;
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sins alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you our heav'nly King.**

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

HYMN #295 (v 1 & 3) "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

#288 (v 1 & 4) "Angels We Have Heard on High"

MEDITATION AND PREPARATION FOR LOVEFEAST

HYMN #305 "What Child Is This?"

HYMN #816 (v 1) "Be Present at Our Table, Lord"

PARTAKING OF LOVEFEAST

HYMN #294 "Joy to the World"

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Stand as able

IN OUR WORSHIP THIS MORNING

MinistersAll who serve Jesus Christ
Pastor.....Rev. Beth Rohn-Habegger
Liturgist & Scripture Reader.....Diane Renner
POP Musicians.....Milo Plante, Julie Rucks & Diane Renner
Keyboardist.....Julie Rucks

IN THE LIFE OF OUR CONGREGATION THIS WEEK

TODAY at 10:15 am.....Worship
from 4:00 – 7:00 pm.....Sunday School Christmas Party
TUESDAY at 4:30 pm.....TOPS
THURSDAY at 9:30 am.....Alanon
NEXT SUNDAY at 9:00 am.....Church School
10:15 am.....Worship

PRAYER CONCERNS

Patty (Schoechert) Beyer, Jan Baker's daughter (Natalie), Ashley & Kolby Kelnhofer, Marie Kaszuba, Alice Lavin, Jim Laufenberg, Lorraine Abbott, Linda (Behrend) Nelson, Jaden (Patty Beyer's granddaughter), Dave Plummer, Beth Sowatzke, Aden Ward, Kurt Young, Neil
Nursing/Assisted Living Residents: Deb Maier, Laniece Haferman, Diane Klawikowski, Marilyn Hutter, Lucy Severt, Barb Scholl, Olaf & Rita Andersen, Marion Bailey
At home: Lloyd Young, Paul & Marie Knipple
Servicemen: Paul & David Eklund, Mason Fellowes, Elias Thelemann

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Our Joyful Noise/To Christ with Love offering this month will go to Moravian Open Door. In January, the Joyful Noise offering will go to G.R.A.C.E. (Greater Rapids Area Churches for Ecumenism)
- 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.
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WATCHWORD FOR THE WEEK

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

Psalm 148:13

Spiritual Growth and Maturity

During the first century in Israel, a child would begin to attain adulthood at the age of twelve. And Jesus, having attained that status, was taken to the Passover festival in Jerusalem, in compliance with God's law recorded in Exodus 23, which required all males to attend Passover.

Traditionally, the mode of travel was walking, and it was customary for women and children to travel at the front of the convoy, with the men following behind. A twelve-year-old boy could have been with the women in front or behind with the men. But after a day's travel, Mary and Joseph discovered that Jesus was not in the convoy, so they hastily returned to Jerusalem and found him in the temple among the religious teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

As a mother, Mary was worried that their son had gone missing. And when they found him, the typical parental scolding could be detected in her question to Jesus, "Why have you done this to us?" She explained to Jesus that they had been frantically searching for him since he turned up missing.

But instead of saying he was sorry for causing them panic, his response was, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" (Luke 2:49).

I don't believe Jesus wanted to cause his parents anguish when he stayed behind, but he had a duty to be in his Father's house, taking care of his Father's business.

It is imperative to note that Jesus went home with his parents, remained obedient to them, and increased in wisdom as he grew. Like Jesus, we too must grow in wisdom as we move from the infancy of our spiritual lives into spiritual maturity.

Lloyd Gooden, pastor, Sharon Moravian Church, New Philadelphia, Ohio

The Moravian Church

First Sunday after Christmas Day

December 29, 2024

